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75th Anniversary

of the

Primghar, Iowa

Community



1888-1963

"THE ONLY PRIMGHAR IN THE WORLD"

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[History committee] Primghar, Iowa.
75th anniversary of the Primghar community,
[by the History committee] [Primghar, Iowa,
1963]

235 p. plates (1 fold.) ports.
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1. Primghar, Iowa--History.

DEDICATION

To all the people of Primghar, both past and present, who have borne the burdens and experienced the joys of seventy-five years of growth and development in this town of the prairie, we respectfully dedicate this history on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of Primghar, July 17 and July 18, 1963.

—History Committee





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16TH STREET

15TH STREET

AERIAL PHOTO OF PRIMGHAR TAKEN SPRING OF 1959

1. Nicholson and Edwards Grain Company.
2. Band Shell—now moved to Memorial Park.
3. Primghar Water Tower—one of the highest in the state.
4. Recreational Building.
5. General Telephone Company of Iowa.
6. Old First National Bank building—now unoccupied.
7. Municipal Building.
8. O'Brien County Court House.
9. Primghar Chiropractic Clinic—formerly Hub Hotel.
10. Hubert H. Schultz Office building—formerly Bell Block. Top half belongs to I. O. O. F. and Rebekahs.
11. Jail and Sheriff's Residence.
12. American Reformed Parsonage.
13. American Reformed Church.
14. Primghar Library.
15. Office of Drs. Getty and Smith.
16. Modern Way Beauty Salon.
17. Office of Smith and Grigg, Attorneys.
18. Residence of Harold Bender, baker—formerly the Postoffice and later Curley's Shoe Repair.
19. Primghar Bakery.
20. Rerick Abstract Co. on ground floor. Office of Dr. Bolender, Dentist on second floor.
21. R. E. A. Office building—formerly Seivert Furniture.
- 21-a. R. E. A. Warehouse—formerly John Deere building.
22. First National Bank—formerly Cassidy and Halbach Hardware.
23. Wally's Phillips 66 Station.
24. Prins Farm Service.
25. Nelle's Conoco Station.
26. U. S. Highway No. 59.

This is the identity of business places that can be seen. For others see listing in Business Directory.

FOREWORD

The history of a little town can be short or long, thick or thin, personal or cold. It can report places, buildings, pictures, people, events. But most of all it should tell a story of days and lives that were lived and spent in just this one little spot on earth.

To find the story in the past and record it takes time and effort. To put down on paper for future reference and guidance some of the events of today takes a bit of judgment and tact. Just what will be the story we want to leave for our descendants to read and enjoy and remember?

As we delve into this task we know what we face in the way of judging, sorting, weighing, searching, and remodeling. There is so much that is interesting and colorful, we wish more could be included. There are so many names that mean so much to those who know them best. We wish we could list each one with just a line or two of history. You know and understand that we cannot include all the names and all the events.

We have done the best we can to present the history of Primghar's first seventy-five years interestingly and fairly. For what we have had to omit, please forgive us. What we have included we hope that you and your children and grandchildren will generally enjoy and remember with many a pleasant thought of "Our Little Town."

OUR LITTLE TOWN

I like to live in our little town
Where the trees meet across the street,
Where you wave your hand and say "Hello"
To everyone you meet.

I like to stand for a moment
Outside the grocery store,
And listen to the friendly gossip
Of the folks that live next door.

For life is interwoven
With the friends we learn to know,
And we hear their joys and sorrows
As we daily come and go.

So I like to live in our little town,
I care no more to roam,
For every house in our little town
Is more than a house~it's home. Anon.

CHANCERY CURSIVE ITALICS

The foregoing page is written in chancery cursive italics by Ralph E. Langley, 82, of Primghar.

Italics is a style of type first used in Venice and it is thought to be an imitation of Petrarch's writing. The use of italic type spread to France, Germany, and England in the middle ages, but was eventually reserved for introductions, prefaces, notes, and quotations. Italics are now used to indicate special emphasis or to distinguish specific phrases and words.

We feel our little town of Primghar deserves special emphasis, and so we are glad to bring some of this type into our history.

Ralph Langley has studied this special type of italics - the chancery cursive - as a hobby for the past few years. We think that he has done an outstanding piece of work. Perhaps one reason for his proficiency is his teacher is his daughter Ruth, Mrs. Roy Justus, of Minneapolis, who teaches this form of art in the Minneapolis School of Art.

CHAPTER I – In The Beginning

History is always interesting for in the human heart there is a love for that which has gone before. We are fascinated by the varied and shifting scenes which made up the drama of life for the old settlers upon whose exit the curtain has long since dropped.

The new settlers faced many hardships and difficulties. They were generally poor and came for the purpose of acquiring land, building a home and carving out a new life for themselves. The little that they could bring with them was soon used in the first acts of settlement, and for a time, it was a struggle to supply even the necessities of life, but they shared each others experiences of joy or sorrow and the life of the early settlers was very closely knit together. These people, dependent upon one another for survival, became very much attached to one another. Many of the settlers were veterans of the Civil War who came here to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the prairie state. A list of old Soldiers who settled in Primghar and vicinity follows.

William M. Breyfogle
William H. Brown
Soloman E. Carmichael
DeWitt Chapman
Isaac Clements
George H. Cook
James T. Dewey
James B. Dunn
Willard H. Eaton
Francis A. Gere
Nelson M. Hadden
Chester W. Inman
John Jessup
John Ker
Jasper Marsh
James Morton
Bradford J. Peasley
John R. Pumphrey
Isaac L. Rerick
George W. Schee

William J. Stewart
Thomas J. Trulock
William Wicks
Samuel C. Wood
Jacob H. Wolf

Jasper Marsh was the last survivor of the Grand Army of the Republic in Primghar.

Agriculture

O'Brien county was distinctly prairie. Miles of continuous waving prairie grass from eight inches to five feet in height was a grand sight to the original old settler. Millions of sweet william, tiger lilies and other prairie flowers were to be found everywhere, also wild strawberries, undisturbed by cultivation.

Land was the basis of wealth, and in this county farming was the main occupation. Its variety lay in the large number of crops and farm products.

The county has only two streams which might be called rivers—the Little Sioux and the Ocheyedan, but has several lesser streams or creeks. Mill Creek flows west of Primghar and several tributaries of the Waterman are to be found east of Primghar. Nearly all the land is tillable.

Tree planting and groves came about because of the need of shade, shelter from storms, and firewood. The prime cause that produced the actual groves in this part of Iowa was a federal law providing for tree claims and requiring that the claimant of land keep the trees growing in thrifty condition for a certain number of years. As farming developed and land advanced in price a farmer could not afford to devote much land to grove.

The rich black loam raised good crops and while corn was the chief crop, wheat was very im-

portant in the early days. It was not a one-crop county, and among the other things that brought in cash were: oats, clover, flax, alfalfa, timothy, vegetables, fruit, melons, milk, cream, butter, also cattle, hogs, sheep, horses, chickens, geese, ducks, eggs, bees, honey, and trees for wood. These were not the only items that could be raised but on practically all of the farms these were the revenue producers. O'Brien county was, and is today, the Garden Spot of the earth. Primghar is in the center of O'Brien county.

Hardships

A few of the calamities which plagued the early settlers were grasshoppers, prairie fires, blizzards, cyclones and epidemics. About July 5, 1873 the grasshoppers appeared like a dark cloud and threatened the crops. In the spring of 1874, there were grave doubts whether to sow grain or not. Some settlers left at once, disheartened and disgusted; those who remained, toiled on, often too poor to leave. The worst ravages of the grasshoppers were in 1874 and 1875, and after that, they did less damage each year, and after 1880 there were none left.

Prairie fires were extremely troublesome and dangerous. The settlers burned off around their premises or plowed around the buildings to prevent the spread of fire but every year prairie fires caused much damage.

On unprotected prairie a blizzard meant terrible hardship, and too often death, for those who were out in it. The settlers' shacks were far apart, and were no shelter from the blinding snow which was so thick that you could not see ten feet away. In the blizzard of 1872 several O'Brien county people lost their lives. Most every winter the settlers experienced severe blizzards which took their toll of lives. In the winter of 1880-

1881 several families were snow-bound for weeks.

Cyclones did much damage. In June 1882 many places throughout the county were destroyed by cyclones, a number of people were injured and a few killed. In many instances houses were completely demolished and other farm buildings damaged.

When diptheria broke out among the children in the winter of 1872 there was no doctor in the county and each family had all they could do to help themselves and their neighbors. The snow was deep and there was no sign of road or track so when going to help a neighbor, bedding was taken to keep warm and a scoop or shovel to dig out the horses when they bogged down in the snow. The many small cemeteries throughout the county are mute reminders of the number who lost their lives during this and other epidemics. These were dark days for the homesteaders.

Times were hard and bounties on wolf and gopher scalps passed as legal tender in pioneer days.

J. L. E. Peck was County Auditor, whose duty it was to issue the bounties on prairie wolf scalps. George Ginger, of Grant township, brought in six young wolves in a sack alive. The two men took them down beside the Courthouse and killed them. Returning to the Auditor's office, Mr. Peck prepared an affidavit for Mr. Ginger to sign to the effect that the wolves had been killed. Mr. Ginger, somewhat of a wag, remarked: "What a damn fool that Peck is to go out himself to see and help kill those wolves and then make me sign an affidavit and swear to it, that they are dead."

Gophers were a troublesome pest in planting time and the settlers tried to eliminate them. Ten gopher scalps would buy a certain

amount of sugar, or other groceries, and would purchase other goods. The Auditor, Capt. Edwards, was kept busy counting the gopher scalps which were brought in large numbers. It was told at the time, that after the Auditor made his inspection and the warrant was made out he would throw the scalps out of the rear window of his office. The boys of the town took these, and again presented them, and got more warrants on them. This industry was practiced until Capt. Edwards found out what was going on and put an end to the "racket".

Mr. Perkins, in company with James Wykoff, was driving to Primghar, and Sam, a dog of much intelligence, was going along with them. On the way Sam caught a gopher which was taken to the County Seat and presented to Auditor Edwards. The man demanded the warrant be made out to "Sam Perkins." After the warrant for five cents was cashed by the Treasurer, the five cents was given to a butcher and "Sam" enjoyed his dinner of bones.

Fuel

In 1873 there was some talk that under the soil of a part of O'Brien county there was a strata of coal. The feeling in favor of coal was brought to bear upon the Board of Supervisors until, in January 1874, they did offer a reward of \$1000.00 to anyone who would discover coal in any part of the county. The coal fever did not abate and some people actually prospected for it. The Board of Supervisors did, at its June meeting 1874, resolve again to encourage the prospecting for coal by offering to pay \$25.00 per ton for one hundred tons mined in the county, and delivered to the court house within two years, but the coal never materialized. The fuel question became important during the few years following

1874, and especially the first years of the grasshoppers.

Money was scarce, fuel must be had, and if there were no funds with which to buy coal, something else must take its place. In casting about for something that would take the place of coal, there seemed to be nothing in sight but prairie grass which was produced right here from the soil and especially in the sloughs it was up to six feet high. This discovery of available fuel in the form of twisted prairie grass or blue stem swept the county like wild fire and soon many a struggling homesteader was twisting the prairie grass into a compact form, so that it could be used for fuel. The women could not do the twisting and it took all of the time a man could spare to twist the grass for fuel. A few ingenious ones entered the field of invention hoping to revolutionize the heating forces of the world, and the patent office at Washington was crowded with models of hay twister stoves but none proved satisfactory. Even as late as 1875-85 the tall prairie grass grew right in the public square at Primghar and right up to the board sidewalks on the streets of many towns of the county.

Religion

With all the hardships endured by the pioneers, as a rule, they did not forget the duty they owed to God and church life. The first settlers were members of various religious denominations, and upon coming to the wilds they did not leave their religion behind them, but early sought out such churches as were to be found here or assisted in organizing new ones. The first sermon preached in the county was in Old O'Brien probably in 1858 by James Bicknell a Methodist Episcopal local preacher who was himself a pioneer. It was particularly appropriate that the first church building

was built of prairie sod. It was built in the spring of 1871 on Section 33 in Center township. The homesteaders turned out in a body with their breaking plows and turned up a lot of good tough, thick sod. By united efforts they soon had a sod building of good size, and almost without cost, except for windows. This manner of building the church was like the old fashioned "raising bee" in a timbered country. Daniel Bysom was one of the homesteaders from Primghar who helped build this sod church and Reverend Clifton was the first preacher.

Indians

Although early settlers in the county had a few encounters with the Indians, they were for the most part friendly. After the terrible massacres around Spirit Lake there were a few scares. At one time a flock of sandhill cranes caused the scare. Another time a herd of hogs frightened a whole neighborhood, and a drove of cattle grazing was at first thought

to be a band of Indians approaching. The Indians seemed to travel from southern Iowa to Storm Lake and followed the streams to Peterson, the lakes and on into Minnesota so no record can be found of any Indians in early Primghar.

Organization

Hannibal House Waterman, with his wife, Hannah H., and one child Emily settled in O'Brien County in July 1856. In order that the organization of the county be perfected, it required an election to vote for officers, which was held in Mr. Waterman's house February 6, 1860. The organizers intended first to organize the county and then to plunder it as the gang had done in Clay and Buena Vista counties. The first, or old log court house was built on the Waterman farm. Negotiations were had with Mr. Waterman to purchase forty acres of his land for a county seat. They finally paid Mr. Tiffey (one of the Tiffey, Bosler & Turber gang) two thousand dollars for forty acres



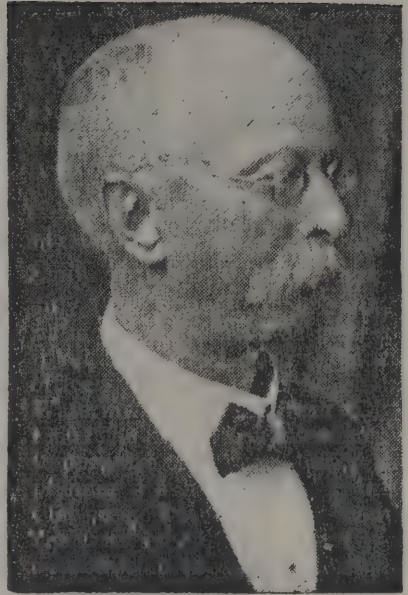
THE OLD LOG COURT HOUSE

and the log court house was moved from the Waterman place to the Tiffey place in the southwest quarter of the Northwest Quarter of section 36, in Waterman township. This became known as Old O'Brien. At the general election of 1872 a vote was taken on the question of permanent location of the county seat of O'Brien county. In order to get the county government out of the hands of the gang it was voted to locate it in the exact geographical center of the county. A forty acre plot in the exact center of the county became the site of Primghar. At the time the surveyors were engaged in the work of laying off the town plot, the persons present were Messers, Pumphrey, Roberts. Inman, McCormack, Green, Hayes, Albright and Rerick. The initials of these names in the order given form the word Primghar, and it was agreed that this should be the name of the new town, the county seat of O'Brien County.



JAMES ROBERTS.

James Roberts with W. C. Green gave the land on which Primghar was built. They also donated land for the school and first church.



W. C. Green

In verse, the origination has been explained as follows:

Pumphrey, the Treasurer, drives the first nail,
Roberts, the donor, is quick on the trail,
Inman dips slyly, the first letter in,
McCormack adds M, which makes the full Prim.
Green, thinking of groceries, gives the G,
Hayes drops the H without asking fee,
Albright, the joker, with his jokes all at par.
Rerick brings up the rear and crowns all Primghar.

The following is from "Pioneer Days in Town of Primghar" written by O. H. Montzheimer for the O'Brien County Bell in 1939. Changes in locations are placed in parentheses to bring this up to date.

In the fall of 1873 there were not over seventy-five people living in Primghar. Charles F. Al-

bright was operating his two story hotel on the lot south of the present Cassidy & Halbach hardware store. (Now the site of the First National Bank). Dr. G. T. Acers and Geo. W. Schee, well digger, were star boarders at the hotel. J. T. Stearns, not yet admitted to the bar, was selling insurance and real estate, and living in his home, a one story building on the present site of the Mrs. Wm. Waund residence. (Now the home of Mrs. Eli Parry). He had an office on the corner south of the Bell block. W. C. Green had a two-story building on the present site of the Bell block used for a store. The upper story was used for public meetings, dances and religious services. The postoffice, getting its mail from Sheldon by stage, was in the Green store. J. F. Hollabaugh, teamster, resided on the present site of the Sheriff's residence. Hollabaugh had a large front parlor, and it was used for the first school. Aurelia Green, daughter of W. C. Green, was the teacher and one of her scholars was Esther Albright, now Mrs. C. H. Winterble. (Mrs. Winterble died in the 1930's).

Clark Green, J. R. Pumphrey, A. J. Brock and Harley Day had residences. Harley Day came to Primghar in 1873 from Carroll Township when he was serving as county supervisor, was admitted to the bar, and served as county superintendent of schools 1878 to 1881, inclusive. He later practiced law at Primghar, Sanborn, and Minot, N. D., where he died in 1903. Orin Finch, stage driver, had a stable near the site of the municipal electric light plant. DeWitt C. Hayes, attorney, who furnished the "H" in naming the town, lived on the Albright farm southeast of town.

The court house square was vacant. In July 1873 E. C. Foskett, a farmer living a mile northeast of Primghar, drove his team of oxen

to town and plowed two furrows around the court yard square in preparation for planting the trees. Next spring the trees were planted, only a few feet apart, and some of them are still there. They were soft maple. The south half of the square and the adjacent street were low, and when it rained they became boggy. In later years, streets to the east and south of the present Catholic Church site were lowered and dirt from there was used to raise the court yard and adjacent street. The Paine store building had been moved from Highland township to Primghar and located by John Pumphrey on a lot owned by him on the north side of the square near the present site of the Nye building. (Now occupied by Chris Anderson apartments above and Hap's Lunch and Montgomery's Florist Shop below). It was used for a court house until the new frame building on extreme northeast corner of the square was built.

William Clark Green arrived in the county in 1869. He conducted the first store in the county at Old O'Brien and was postmaster there. In 1873 he moved to Primghar with his store and held the office of postmaster for five years. He followed his brother Lemuel C. Green who was the first postmaster. William Clark Green with James Roberts was owner of the original town site of Primghar. He held the office of sheriff from 1882 to 1888, inclusive. His wife was Malvenah S. Kidder Green, and the first child born in Primghar was Edna Caroline Green, their daughter.

Charles F. Albright and his wife settled in Highland Township on the northwest corner of section six, cornering with the town of Primghar in spring of 1871. He built the first hotel in Primghar, was County Supervisor, later mayor of the town and deputy sheriff. He died and was buried at Prim-

ghar May 10, 1902. The second child born in Primghar was his daughter Maud Estella Albright on January 9, 1874, but she died April 7, 1876.



C. F. ALBRIGHT.

First hotel keeper in Primghar and the first mayor.

The first male child to be born in Primghar was the son of A. J. Brock and his wife Florence A.

Healey Brock. This being the first voter (in prospective) who can claim Primghar as his native town, he was extended congratulations and best wishes for a long and prosperous useful life. (This was long before the day when women could vote). Andrew J. Brock was a clerk and deputy postmaster in the store of W. C. Green at Old O'Brien, held office as county recorder 1873 to 1876, inclusive, and joined J. T. Stearns in 1876 in plating Brock & Stearns addition to the town of Primghar. He was later the first postmaster in Sheldon.

"Judge" Albert H. Willits came to Old O'Brien in 1872 and was employed by L. B. Raymond as editor of the O'Brien Pioneer. This paper had been established by John R. Pumphrey in 1871 and B. F. McCormack was its first editor. The paper was printed in Cherokee in 1872 when Col. L. B. Raymond purchased the paper and placed Willits as its local editor. In May 1872 he issued the first edition ever printed and published in the coun-



FIRST HOTEL BUILDING IN PRIMGHAR.

ty. In November 1872 Willits purchased the paper and in 1873 moved it to Primghar, erected a building for a home and printing office on the corner west of Noe's Cafe (Now Greenlee's Store) and the O'Brien Pioneer was published there until 1879. Then it was sold and removed to Sanborn and is still being published there—the oldest newspaper in the county. Willits served as deputy clerk of the District Court in 1872 and held office of Clerk of that court from 1873 to 1878, inclusive. Early in the eighties he moved to Minneapolis where he died.

Early Pioneers

The following was contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Hagedorn as a description of conditions near Primghar when her grandparents settled here.

On April 1, 1872 Wheeler Thomas, of Darien, Wisconsin left for Cherokee, Iowa, where there was a Government Land Opening. He traveled with horses and wagon. The journey was difficult and hazardous, fording rivers and creeks, and following Indian trails. The following May, Mr. Thomas'

wife and two daughters came to keep him company. The family and other relatives settled in Liberty Township in O'Brien County.

After one and one-half years the family moved to a Timber Claim northeast of Primghar, where they lived for twenty-three years. During this time the family increased to five daughters. They were victims of prairie fires, grasshoppers, a scourge of scarlet fever, other illnesses and many pioneer hardships, but they saw the county recover and Center Township become the most prosperous portion of the county. Their daughters married and settled in the county for many years. The family left O'Brien County for a period of three years, and went to Wisconsin to care for their aged parents. They returned and spent many years on the land and in the town they had learned to love, and helped develop. Mrs. Thomas lived to be 90 years old, and her friends were dependent on her for advice and comfort. The daughters are, or were, Estella Conrad, Sarah Ray, Lucretia Knudsen, Pearl Hinz, Hattie Crooks, and Jessie Pierson. Mrs. Hazel Hagedorn is a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas.

CHAPTER II – First Settlements

Primghar had its beginning in 1872 when the voters of the county chose the forty acres of platted ground in the geographical center of the county, and site of Primghar, as the county seat—before it was named. It has a distinct claim to originality in its name, made up from the initials of the names of the eight men chiefly taking part in platting the town.

On November 8, 1872, William Clark Green and his wife, Melvenah S. Green, and James Roberts dedicated and platted the original town, consisting of thirty acres, into fourteen blocks and one outlot. The town's only attorney, Dewitt C. Hayes, was the draftsman. In the hurry, with winter coming on, the town was crudely surveyed and as a result many buildings extended into the street. Because of this, in 1888 the town was resurveyed and corners located where the recorded plat placed them.

Platting

Original town—1872—by W. C. Green and James Roberts.

The following are additions:

Brock & Stearns Addition—1876—
A. J. Brock, J. T. Stearns.

Replat Block 14.

Shuck's Addition—May 3, 1887—
E. W. Shuck.

Derby and Rowan's Addition—September 1, and January 28, 1888—
—F. W. Derby, James Rowan.

Replat Block Eight

Schee and Stearn's Addition—1887—
—George W. Schee, John Stearns.

Slocum, Turner and Armstrong Addition—September 5, 1887—
George R. Slocum, Frank A. Turner and William S. Armstrong.

Peck and Shuck's Addition—August 17, 1887—J. L. E. Peck and E. W. Shuck.

Shuck's Second Addition—December 30, 1887—E. W. Shuck.

Resurvey.

Re-Plat of Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Re-Plat of Block Five, Shuck's Addition.

Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Old Cemetery Deed and Plat.

Clarke's Addition

Kopp's Addition

Re-Plat of Block 5, East 264 ft. of
O.L. 1, Shuck's Addition.

Messrs. Green and Roberts in their dedication deed, generously donated one block for the O'Brien county courthouse, one for public school, and one for the Methodist Church. The public square was immediately taken possession of by O'Brien county and the Board of Supervisors in 1878 planted this plot of two acres to trees which were protected by a board fence. George W. Schee and C. S. Cooper hauled dirt from the grading at the Schee residence where the Catholic church is now and spread it from six to eighteen inches deep on the South and West sides of the square which was then a boggy, muddy slough.

The town celebrated its starting on June 13, 1873, by having what was called a "Calico Hop" at the W. C. Green's store building before he moved in.

The charter families of the first five years, 1872-1877 were: John R. Pumphrey, Beuren Chrysler, Isaac W. Daggett, Henrietta Wheeler Acre, Capt. Robert C. Tiffit, R. G. Allen, John Hollibough, Ed. A.

Nissen, McAllen Green, William Clark Green, George W. Schee, Judge A. H. Willits, John W. Kelly, Peg Leg Allen, John Richardson, Dr. H. C. West, T. J. Alexander, W. W. Barnes, J. G. Chrysler, A. J. Edwards, Warren Walker, Charley Allen, Stephen Harris, Rev. C. W. Clifton, James Daniels, Lemuel C. Green, J. L. E. Peck, A. J. Brock, Harley Day, Ed. C. Brown, Ed. C. Dean, Dr. A. C. Smith, Charles Titus and Mart Shea.

hotel, The Albright House. He ran it for a couple of years and then Mr. Walters, the grandfather of Mrs. George Mast of Primghar took over the hotel. Later it was known as The Grand Hotel and the small frame court house was moved to make room for the new one so that was added to The Grand Hotel as were several other additions. Today it is used as a residence and three of the additions were taken away and used as other



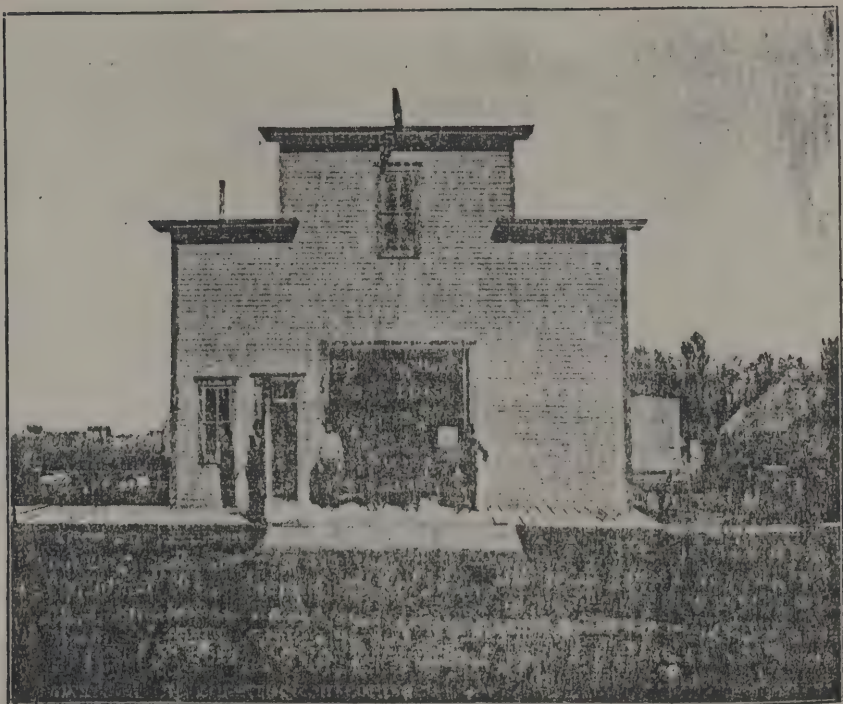
HOTEL GRAND, PRIMGHAR.

First Buildings

Primghar became a town when there were but six and one-half miles of railroad built in the county, the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad to Sheldon. During the first fifteen years of its existence it was without a railroad, and was in its sixteenth year when it was incorporated as a town.

Buildings were rushed up in the fall of 1872, and in 1873 William Clark Green built the first store building on the site of the Bell Block. It was destroyed by cyclone but rebuilt. In that year, Charles F. Albright hauled the lumber from Sheldon and built the first

residences in Primghar. Thomas Byers lives today in what was the old hotel just east of the office of Drs. E. B. Getty and A. D. Smith. The population of the little village was then about 200. Paine's store, for years conducted on Section 8, Highland township, was moved to Primghar and used as a court house until the new court house was built. The store was used as a court house, drug store and printing office. It was moved to Sanborn by A. H. Willits where he engaged in the merchantile business. In 1872 Judge A. H. Willits built a residence on the north side of the square, with a small printing office, to which he moved the



PUTNAM'S LIVERY BARN, PRIMGHAR.

O'Brien Pioneer previously published in Old O'Brien. John R. Pumphrey at once built a small bank on the site of the Hub Hotel. It was about twenty by thirty in size and had an iron safe. The county records and county offices were moved over in the summer of 1873, from Old O'Brien, the removal of the county seat having been voted on in the election of 1872. The county officers first occupied the old Paine store building, which had been moved to Primghar for that purpose, and was used until the fall of 1874 when a court house building was erected on the present court house square. It was erected at a cost of \$5,000.00. The dimensions were 30 x 40 feet with an additional 10 x 14 feet. It was two stories high with a stairway on the outside. The upper part was used as a court room and the first floor was for offices. In 1873 the first school house was built, in size 40 x 60

feet, two stories in height, with two rooms. The cost was \$3,000.00. S. Harris was the principal and Miss Ives Inman assistant. The total enrollment was 59 pupils.

Few people ever knew that the town once had a regular old-fashioned grist mill, to which people brought their grists of wheat and other grains to be ground at a one-tenth toll. It was built in 1875 and removed to Osceola county in 1878. The mill was owned and built by Christian F. Krueger, then a farmer both in Summit township and in Osceola county. It stood on the location of the Paul Tonner residence, east of the Methodist church, occupied at present by Mr. and Mrs. Bixler.

The Methodist church people were the first to hold religious services in town. These were held for a while at the Albright Hotel and afterwards in the court house, un-



O'BRIEN COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

til they erected a church building in 1880 at the cost of \$1300.00 and there was a parsonage. They organized in 1873 with a membership of twenty-four. Daniel Bysom was Sabbath School Superintendent. The cyclone which crossed the county in 1882 did considerable damage in Primghar. It blew away the Methodist church; which was afterwards rebuilt. The cyclone of June 24th occurred at six o'clock in the morning when two whirling eddies seemed to unite just north and west of town. The Methodist Church and the residence of William Hastings were completely destroyed and the debris was scattered more than a mile southeast. The family of Mr. Hastings was saved from harm in the basement of the house, but Mr. Hastings was hurled one-hundred feet with flying timbers of the church and his own house. He was dropped near two other houses in the neighborhood and taken in from the storm there. At first he was thought to be dead,

but after care he recovered and was able to work again. Several other houses in this area were damaged and the residents hurt, but there were no immediate deaths.

When Sanborn started in 1878 because of the coming of the railroad, about forty buildings were moved from Primghar to Sanborn and in 1881 many more buildings were moved to Sutherland and Paullina when the Northwestern came to these new towns. The sound of hammers was as vigorous in destruction and removal as in construction. But the county was reviving in spite of the discouragement, land was advancing, business was good, new people came and everybody prospered nevertheless. Some fellow from the east striking out for Primghar with a yoke of oxen named one ox Prim and the other Ghar so he would not forget the name of the town to which he was going.

In 1879 W. C. Green sold out his stock of goods to J. R. Pumphrey and A. B. Chrysler, who conducted the business under the name of Pumphrey and Chrysler.

The first issue of The Primghar Times was January 12, 1882. Schee and Achorn were the proprietors and it had a circulation of 600. Mr. Bundy was the editor.

W. S. Armstrong came to Primghar in 1885 and at once built and equipped a cheese factory which he ran for three years. This brought him in connection with the best farming conditions and he also announced himself as an auctioneer.

County Seat Troubles

For fifteen years Primghar was left "in the air," as it were, on the county seat and railroad expectations, but Primghar has had the unusual experience of having engaged in four full fledged county-seat fights. No other county in the state has had a like experience.

The Court Houses of O'Brien County and County Seat Contests

The first, or old log court house, was built on the farm of Hannibal House Waterman, on the northeast quarter of section 26, by Archibald Murray in the early part of 1860, and after the election of February 6, 1860, which organized the county. This election was held in the private residence of Mr. Waterman. In this sense his farm house was the first county building or court house. The log court house was not paid for until November 30, 1860. How much business was transacted here is hard to determine. This old log court house was soon needed as a school house and a little later was used as a residence, a blacksmith shop and a stable.

Negotiations to purchase forty acres of land from Mr. Waterman for a county seat were unsuccessful and finally they paid Mr. Tiffey

two thousand dollars for forty acres from him. The old log cabin court house was moved down about three quarters of a mile to the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 36, in Waterman township. On August 28, 1861, the Hon. A. W. Hubbard, judge of the district court, held a term of court at Old O'Brien and appointed Lemuel Parkhurst of Cherokee County, Edward Smeltzer of Clay County, and James Gleason of Buena Vista County, to select a county seat.

Another court house was built in Old O'Brien in 1870 but the records are meager. Archibald Murray built it but the cost cannot be determined. Mr. Murray was County Auditor and the record states that he lived in one end of the building with his family and his Auditor's office was in the other end. This court house was moved to Primghar and sold to A. J. Edwards for forty dollars.

Paine's store served as an Ad Interim court house. It was a rented building which stood on the block north of the public square. In May 1874, it was leased to the county and here the first court was held. This Paine's store building housed the official records until the new court house was occupied. In 1878 Frank Teabout moved the building to Sanborn and used it for a store.

The second court house was built in Primghar in 1874 by Stewart & Healy at a cost of two thousand dollars. Its size was about thirty-five feet square. It had four offices below and a stairway on the outside led to the court room above. (Picture on page 12).

The third court house, a wooden structure, was built in Primghar by Green Brothers in 1887. The board by resolution appropriated the sum of five thousand dollars for the erection of a new court house. This was the highest

amount the board could appropriate without a vote of the people. It was not sufficient since the lumber and material had to be hauled from Sanborn or Paullina. Its actual cost was six thousand dollars so the people of Primghar signed written agreements to haul the material without cost to the county. It was originally fifty by fifty-four feet in size but proved to not be sufficient in size so in 1902 an addition, twenty by thirty-two feet, was added at a cost of one thousand four hundred dollars. This court house was sold and used as a residence in Primghar.

At a special election November 3, 1914, the people of the county voted in favor of building a new court house. The cost was \$160,000.00 and it was occupied in April 1917. Smith & Keffer of Des Moines were the architects and J. E. Lovejoy of Des Moines was awarded the construction contract.

The design is classic of the later Roman period adaptable to the modern public building. The main entrance is to the east but the west entrance is practically the same with the exception of the balcony.

The exterior is faced with No. 1 Buff Bedford Limestone, all windows and doors are American plate glass. All the finish of the corridors is Italian marble, including the door trim, wainscoting and stairs. The stair railings are heavy castings finished in bronze. The only wood in evidence is the doors; the floors of the corridors, including the public spaces in the offices, are of tile while the finished floors of the office rooms are of battleship linoleum. The seal of O'Brien County is inlaid in the center of the main corridor second floor in colored hand-cut tile.

The construction of the building throughout is of fireproof materials. Fixtures and furniture har-

monize with the architectural effect of the building.

It is a monument of which no one need be ashamed and a permanent testimonial indicative of the financial wealth of the county.

In 1955 the heating system was converted from coal to natural gas and fuel oil.

In 1962 the court house was partly rewired and relighted. This takes care of the new lights and the new office equipment.

In 1963 the interior was completely repainted.

County Jails

The first jail in Primghar was built in 1874, and was like a block house of Indian days. It consisted of timbers, two by six, laid flat on each other, and filled through with large spikes. It was sold by the county as a residence and in 1907 it was burned down.

The second jail was built in 1890. It was twenty-five by thirty-six feet and built of faced brick. The first cost was about five thousand dollars but improvements were made later. It stands on block 8 of Primghar, next west block from the public square, and is used today as the residence of Mrs. Geo. Wells.

In 1926 a fine modern sheriff's residence and jail was built at a cost of \$12,300.00. It is located just east of the old Bell building.

County Seat Contests

O'Brien county has had four county seat contests: the contest between Old O'Brien and Primghar in 1872, the contest of 1879 between Primghar and Sheldon, the Sanborn raid or contest in 1882 and the contest of 1911 between Primghar and Sheldon.

The establishment of the county seat at Old O'Brien had an ignoble cause. The first contest

was not strictly between Old O'Brien and Primghar, but between Old O'Brien and the then prairie grass plot of forty acres, the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 36, township 96, range 41. It is probably the only case in the state where forty acres of bare prairie, with no inhabitants and not even a name (Primghar had not been named), ever contested a county seat and won out.

This first fight in 1872 was a supreme effort on the part of the homesteaders and a determination of these settlers that the county seat and its records should be wrenched from the Bosler, Cofer, Tiffey crowd. The only way to do it was to uproot it and move it away from the gang organizing counties for profit. They also wished to locate the county seat in the exact center of the county.

The second contest between Sheldon and Primghar was in 1879. On June third a petition was filed before the county Board of Supervisors asking for the relocation of the county seat from Primghar to Sheldon. The hearing of the board lasted three days but the official record is quite meager.

The board found five hundred and thirty-two signed the petition for relocation; fifty-seven illegal voters or non-residents signed same; eighty-nine voters who had signed the petition had also signed Primghar's remonstrance; four hundred and ninety-five signed the remonstrance; fourteen were illegal signers. Based on these findings, the petition was rejected. The court room was packed with people from all parts of the county and street scenes were very demonstrative on both sides.

During the period of circulating Sheldon's petition, the town of Sanborn also circulated a petition to relocate the county seat at Sanborn and Primghar circulated re-

monstrances against both towns.

A general remonstrance was also circulated against relocating it anywhere, but this was rejected by the board as too indefinite. At this time the law did not require petitions filed until the day of the hearing before the board. There was much excitement. The people of the county were solving its destiny.

The Third County Seat Contest Known as The Sanborn Raid

Each of the other contests were conducted under the statutes of Iowa, providing for petitions or a vote. The Sanborn raid, which occurred November 23, 1882, was purely a physical combat for the county seat, but it had its causes.

Primghar had no railroad and was a small town which did not seem to grow.

The railroads of the county were having a passenger rate war and the Sioux City road offered a round trip ticket to Saint Paul and back for twenty-five cents. Every officer in the court house, except the Auditor, J. L. E. Peck, together with many other citizens took advantage of this and left town for the trip. Since there was no railroad in Primghar the officials took the train in Sanborn, which brought up the subject of the raid.

Sanborn citizens soon were well organized. Some of the best citizens, like William Harker, J. L. Greene, Harley Day, Mart Shea, David Palen and about one hundred others took part. They came down with teams, wagons, crowbars, heavy timbers, pulleys and tackle and arrived in Primghar about mid-night. They battered down the court house doors, cut the window sills down to the floor and began to load up records and papers from all the offices in waiting wagons. The County Treasurer's safe, also the Recorder's and Clerk's were taken. The County

Auditor's safe had been built into the building so could not be removed.

The alarm was sounded by someone sleeping in the jail and all of Primghar was aroused. Everyone was running and yelling. Mr. J. L. E. Peck, County Auditor, and George W. Schee organized the people and cautioned against physical conflict. Mr. Peck walked through the court house and greeted everyone and warned the Sanborn people that the records must be returned. He managed to save his seal and a few records.

Primghar men passed among the teams cutting the harness, wringing nuts off of the wagon wheels thus preventing removal. Men and boys rode to every part of the county to warn people to go to Sanborn to get the court house and by ten o'clock the next day over five hundred men were in Sanborn. The board of supervisors met in several sessions during the day with reference to the return of the records. It soon became clear to both sides that such an attempted removal of the county seat without a vote of the people would get in the courts and be involved in legal troubles. It became humorous as well as serious.

About one o'clock a committee of six Sanborn citizens came to the Board, admitted their mistake and offered to correct it. They agreed to hand over the records and pay all expenses on both sides. Banker J. L. Greene's residence had been used as a temporary court house.

In the meantime the women of Primghar helped by many farmers, chopped and sawed the wagons. The hub of one of the wheels is on display today on the second floor of the present court house.

Much feeling prevailed over the county. There were meetings and the arrest of the main parties was

demanding but the main eight men gave bonds and no arrests were made.

Fourth County Seat Contest Primghar and Sheldon

This contest was in 1911. All such contests have their ground work causes.

The county was housing its records in a frame court house. Then Primghar had not secured a railroad until fifteen years after Sheldon which had three roads and was the largest town in the county, but Sheldon was located on the county line and Primghar in the center.

On March 3, 1911, the people of Sheldon commenced the circulation of a petition for the "relocation of the county seat at Sheldon". Both sides soon realized they were in for a real fight.

This contest lasted ninety days each side canvassing the county to secure one-half or a majority of the signatures of the voters to keep the court house in Primghar or to move it to Sheldon. Feeling ran high and every man, woman and child in the county was discussing the problem. Every newspaper in the county published articles and circulars. Hand bills were mailed broadcast to every voter in the county, public meetings were held, several dozen men on both sides put in the major part of their time for sixty to ninety days. One can see that the fight was tense. Judge William D. Boies of Sheldon, issued the main body argument from Sheldon's standpoint, which was published both by circulars and in the papers broadcast. Others followed his lines for Sheldon. Messrs. R. J. Locke, J. L. E. Peck, and O. H. Montzheimer and others did the same thing from the viewpoint of Primghar.

There were forty-five hundred voters. In the first instance,

twenty-four hundred and eighty-five voters signed the petition for relocation at Sheldon. Later on about nine hundred petitioners signed the remonstrance, and under the law were deducted. A few had signed both the petition and the remonstrance so were struck off.

The hearing was held before the Board of Supervisors on June 8, 1911.

The board of supervisors found that, after deducting names of persons not legal voters, names of persons appearing on both the remonstrance and the petition, and duplicate signatures, that the vote stood 3161 for Primghar and 1447 for Sheldon so no vote on the proposition of relocation of the county seat was ordered.

Each side had kept a lobby at the State Capital, and as a result, the Legislature passed an amendment that thereafter two-thirds of the voters according to the last census should vote for removal before a relocation could be ordered instead of one-half as had been the law.

Primghar realized that they did not have adequate hotel facilities so immediately subscriptions for stock for a new hotel were circulated, a stock company formed and the Hub Hotel (now Hagen's Chiropractic clinic on the northeast corner of the square) was built at a cost of just less than twenty-five thousand dollars. The new hotel was not only adequate but a credit to the town. The name HUB suggests the center of the county.

A grand opening was held in the hotel dining room December 8, 1911 and guests numbering one hundred and fifty from all over the county attended. Mr. J. L. E. Peck acted as toast-master. Speeches were made by various lawyers throughout the county. The pre-

vailing theme was loyalty to one's town and up-building of the county.

These four county seat contests show the people of the county working out its development.

Socialabilities

Many socialabilities and amusements were enjoyed because everybody was everybody else's equal. The whole citizenship took part in a lyceum conducted to discuss county problems and important happenings of that day. Primghar citizens put on various home talent shows and played "Uncle Tom's Cabin" one winter and with the proceeds (\$150.00) outfitted the band. Charles H. Allen, attorney, a skilled band-master conducted the pioneer band. Sociables, advertised as "hay twisters" were held. After the lyceum proper and the preacher had been invited to go home the seats of the court room were pushed to the side, and Mr. Allen, with his musicians, played for an old-time dance until twelve o'clock. "Everybody was on hand at early candle sticken". Pomp McCormack used to announce at public functions.

The first lecture course in Primghar in 1886 was organized by W. S. Armstrong in connection with the high school but developed from a two-hundred and fifty dollar course to a twelve hundred dollar course under the management of Fred B. Wolf in the employ of the Redpath Lyceum Bureau. Primghar had the reputation of being one of the best lyceum towns of its size west of Chicago.

The Struggle for the Railroad

The land grant by Congress May 12, 1864, provided that the Milwaukee railroad should be built through O'Brien county. This road ran through the north tier of townships and the Northwestern railroad ran through the south tier of townships. Finally the Illinois Cen-

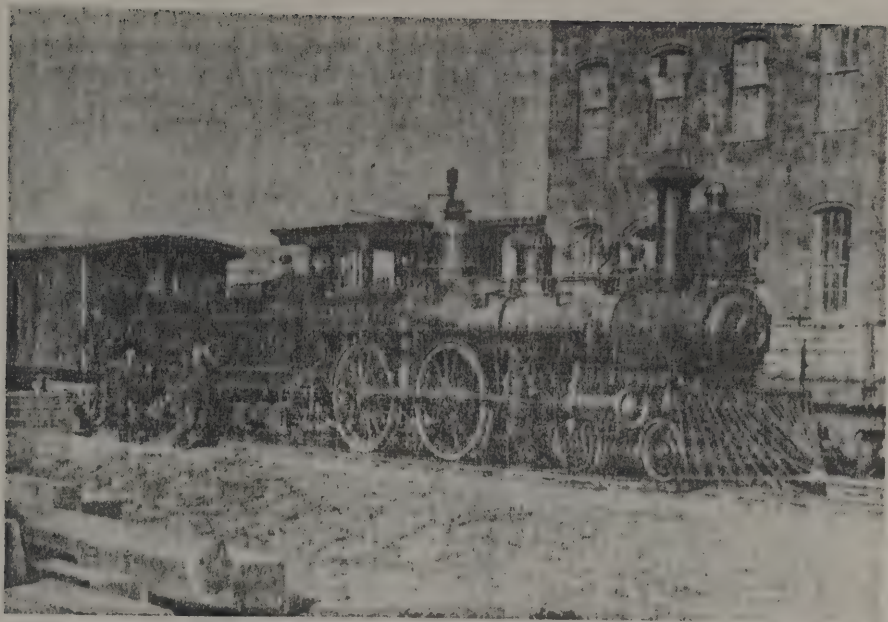


Illinois Central Depot at Primghar.

tral Railroad angling through the country and through Primghar, brought the railroad for which Primghar had worked and fought for fifteen years. This long wait was much occupied in all sorts of railroad meetings by the people generally, reaching out to the Legislature, Congress, and to Eastern Capitalists to get anybody interested who might build a road. All sorts of railroad schemes and building scares and false prospects were chased up. The definite order or invitation came at last in April 1887, from Superintendent Gilleas and one of the main officials of the Illinois Central Railroad, to meet at Cherokee, naming the specific day and hour. Ten men went down. The railroad officials laid down the one and only proposition but the town people felt the railroad must be had even on hard terms. The ten citizens present signed a written guarantee already prepared, to furnish and hand over warranty deeds, with good title, clear of encumbrance, to the right of way for twenty-two miles and thirteen acres for depot grounds in

Primghar. There was no choice. The instrument was executed and signed by the following ten citizens of Primghar: George W. Schee, George R. Slocum, Frank A. Turner, William S. Armstrong, Frank N. Derby, Charles H. Winterble, Charles F. Albright, E. W. Shuck, J. L. E. Peck, and F. M. McCormack. This was signed up without the least idea of what it might cost. In fact it cost something over ten thousand dollars. Every man in town was assessed, for the amount must be raised. This twenty-two miles extended from Archer to the Cherokee line. The whole road was finished during the summer. Primghar citizens were given the chance to have the depot east of the First National Bank or the depot grounds where land could be purchased cheaper, and the cheaper site was chosen, the one still in use today.

On Sunday, November 1, 1887, the construction train that laid the iron rails as it moved, arrived in Primghar. The whole citizenship of the town was present. "Pomp" Mc-



Early 1890's steam engine. This type was used by the Illinois Central Railroad for passenger and freight service through Primghar.



RESIDENCE OF W. I. SEMMONS, PRIMGHAR.

Present home of Mr. and Mrs. Clay Edwards, and Mrs. Elizabeth McCauley (2nd floor).

Cormack mounted the front of the engine a mile below town and with the stars and stripes waving and him yelling the train pulled in. At last Primghar was a railroad town. Trains followed and the depot was built.

New life came into the town with new buildings and new people. Reynoldson & Metcalf composed of Joseph Reynoldson and Joseph Metcalf, arrived in 1887 and built a frame hardware store. Mr. Ostrander and Reader and Eddington erected buildings and put in a general store on the south side. On the west side of the square Henry Williams built his large line of department store buildings covering all classes of goods. W.A. Rosecrans and Charles Lockyar built and opened up a furniture and undertaking store. W. J. Semmons put in a large merchandise building. So far these buildings were all frame.

Incorporation

December 8, 1887, Frank A. Turner and forty-nine others circulated a petition praying the court for an order to incorporate the town to include three hundred and sixty acres of land in Summit, Center and Dale townships. This petition was filed December 30, 1887, and the order was made at the January term in 1888. On January 13, 1888 the court appointed commissioners to call an election of the voters to determine whether it should or should not be incorporated. Notice was published and an election was held on February 14, 1888. The vote stood fifty seven for incorporation and forty-seven against. Thereafter the town became a municipality.

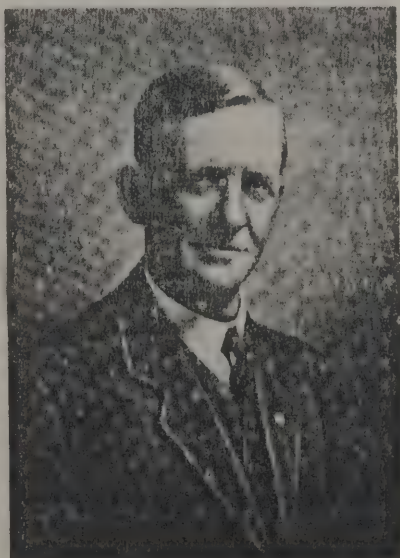
THUMBNAIL SKETCHES

Primghar had many enterprising men who were a credit to the town.

Charles A. Albright, farmer, was born in Pennsylvania in 1839; removed to Muscatine county, Iowa, in 1858; two years later he moved to Cedar county. He enlisted in the War of the Rebellion and served three years. He came to O'Brien county in 1871 and settled on a homestead in the center of the county, adjoining what is now the town of Primghar. He erected the first hotel here in 1873. He was married in 1865 to Adeline McElwain and had two children. Mrs. Charles H. Winterble of Primghar was a daughter. Died, May 10, 1902. Buried at Primghar.

Milt H. Allen, attorney at law, was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, in 1859; moved with his parents to Clay county in 1871. He came to O'Brien county in 1873, and engaged in the practice of law with O. M. Barrett in 1879. He opened an office in Primghar in 1881. Deceased.

William S. Armstrong was born in Lafayette county, Wisconsin. He



W. S. ARMSTRONG

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 DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

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Figure 1. A. B. C.

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Figure 2. A. B. C.

came to Primghar in 1885 where he conducted a cheese factory for three years. He owned a farm south of town and was also an auctioneer. He married Caroline Curry in 1875 and they had two children, Earl and Minnie. Deceased.

William Hugh Brown was born near Chillicothe, Ohio, July 12, 1842. He received his education in the Springville, Iowa, schools. He enlisted in 1863 in Company H, Twenty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment and served for one year and seven months. He was honorably discharged from the Army July 17, 1865. July 16, 1864, he married Anna Robinson and in 1871 they came to O'Brien county and homesteaded on the southwest quarter of section 8, Center township. He added to his acreage, reared a family of seven children and moved to Primghar in 1904. He was a charter member of the Primghar Masonic Lodge. Deceased.

Daniel Bysom was born in Berkeley county, West Virginia, in 1850 and from his youth had engaged in the pursuit of agriculture. In 1870 he married Laura H. Stanley and brought his bride to O'Brien county where they homesteaded. They had four children. He was well and favorably thought of throughout the county, serving as Justice of Peace, member of the School board in Center township and taking an active part in the work of the Methodist church. He and Mrs. Bysom spent their later years in Primghar. Deceased.

Isaac Clements was born January 15, 1842, in Sangamon County, Illinois. He enlisted in Company H, Sixteenth Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry in August 1862 and was mustered out of the army at Washington, D. C., May 31, 1865. December 20, 1865, he married and shortly after he and his wife moved to O'Brien County, where



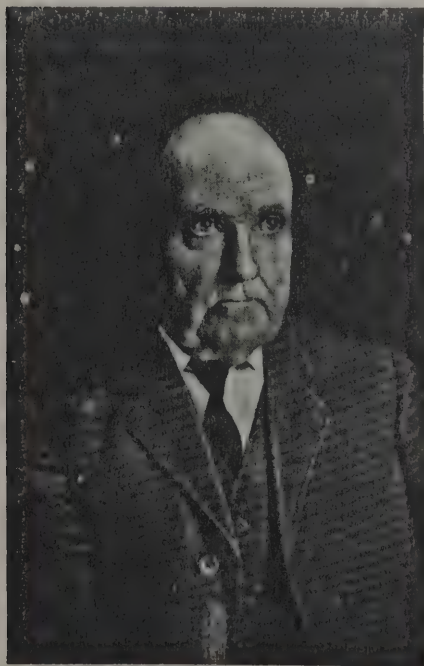
they homesteaded in Floyd township. He was elected Recorder of O'Brien county in 1886, and never farmed since that time. After serving four years in that important office to the entire satisfaction of the citizens of the county he engaged in the merchantile business in Primghar. One daughter, Mrs. Ella Johnston, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Clements. Now deceased.

William Clark Green was born September 7, 1842, in Jackson county, Indiana. He sold the first goods from a store in O'Brien county in 1869 at Old O'Brien. In 1872 Mr. Green bought a half interest in the town site of Primghar of James Roberts, a homesteader of Carroll township, and the two men platted the town in 1873. He was Primghar's first postmaster in 1873. He had moved to Primghar in June 1873, and at once built and opened up the first pioneer store. He was sheriff of the county four terms. Deceased.

Stephen Harris was born in Brunswick, Maine, in 1842, moved with his parents to Boston, Massachusetts, in 1845. He went to sea in 1860 and 1863 enlisted in the army and served two years. He came to Iowa in 1869. He moved

to Primghar in 1874, where he taught school in Primghar, was deputy treasurer for four years and also engaged in the land business. Deceased.

Robert P. Jones was born April 1, 1846 on a farm in Jackson county, Ohio. He moved with his parents to Wisconsin and to Clay County, Iowa in 1871. He sought his fortune in Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Arkansas, coming to O'Brien County, Iowa in 1886, locating in Dale township. He was a "squatter" on land claimed by the Sioux City and St. Paul railroad and he helped many squatters gain possession of their land. He was president of the Taxpayers' Association, an organization of squatters to protect themselves against the railroads. He retired from farming and moved into Primghar in 1908. He married Emily Pond and they had 1 child of their own, but adopted and reared five orphaned children. No date of death available.



J. L. E. PECK

J. L. E. Peck was born in Louisa, Canada, August 18, 1852; moved with his parents to Page County, Iowa, where he resided until graduating from the State University of Iowa in 1874, when he moved to Winneshiek county. He came to Primghar in 1877 and engaged in the practice of law. He was elected County Auditor in 1879, and reelected in 1881. He married Alice Wilkinson, June 15, 1882. They had two daughters, Demia and Beulah and raised a niece, Alice Blanchard. He was a partner of David Algyer in 1894 and in the later part of that year formed the law, loan and abstract firm of Peck, Antherholt and Ingham. Later he was a partner of Mr. Artherholt. He was a member of the board of education for many years, the mayor of Primghar for two years and a member of the town council for nine years. In 1891, with F. M. McCormack, he wrote twenty-four chapters of the history of O'Brien county and was one of the editors (1914) of the History of O'Brien and Osceola counties, Iowa, a two volume edition.

Isaac L. Rerick was born May 4, 1834 in Tippalouse Co., Illinois, and educated there. When twenty-one years of age he came to Iowa and lived in Delaware, Jones and Boone counties. He enlisted September 28, 1861 in Company E. Fourteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry and served three years and three months. He was discharged at Davenport, Iowa, December 11, 1864. In the spring of 1871 he came to O'Brien Co. and homesteaded in Liberty township. In 1878 he and his family moved to Primghar, where he obtained the contract for carrying the mail twice each week between Cherokee, Primghar and Spencer. In 1881 he engaged in the lumber business and in 1888 he was elected recorder of O'Brien Co. and served until 1892. He then wrote insurance and handled real estate

in the county. Mr. Rerick served as a Commander of Jordan Post, Grand Army of the Republic, was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and was assistant door-keeper of the Iowa Senate for several years.

Mr. and Mrs. Rerick had seven children and Henry engaged in the abstract business in Primghar. Today, Gordon Rosecrans, a grandson, heads the Rerick Abstract Company here. I. L. died in 1925.

George W. Schee was born in Clark County, Missouri, in 1849; moved to Oskaloosa, Iowa, in 1861 with his parents. In 1871 he came to O'Brien Co., and engaged in farming in Carroll Township and later well digging. He moved to Primghar in 1876, and was elected County Auditor, in which capacity he served two terms. He opened a land and law office in 1881 in partnership with C. E. Achorn. He married Lizzie Downing in 1877 and they had three children.

Mr. Schee was a member of the Iowa legislature. He accumulated considerable property and exercised much public spirit in donating flags to the school districts, gifts to school libraries, and personal gifts to students. Each year the valedictorian of Primghar High School was given a trip and only a report on the trip was asked in return. No facts are available concerning date of his death.

Jacob Henry Wolf was born July 3, 1841, on a farm near Washington, Pennsylvania. In 1859 the family moved to Washington and he worked with his father at the carpenter trade, but on May 2, 1859 he entered the office of the Washington Examiner for the purpose of learning the printing trade, being bound out to his employer for four years. When the Civil War broke out in 1861 he volunteered, and again in 1862, but was not permitted to go until his indenture was finished, May 2, 1863. On July

14th of that year Mr. Wolf enlisted in Company H, Forty-Sixth Pennsylvania Infantry, and served until the close of the war. He was honorably discharged July 16, 1865. On September 14, 1865, he married Sarah Jane Mickey and five children were born to them. Mr. Wolf and his wife moved to O'Brien county in 1873 and settled on a farm two miles south of Sanborn. In November 1883, Mr. Wolf bought the Sanborn Pioneer which he published for fifteen years. In 1894, in partnership with Thomas Gravenor, he purchased the O'Brien County Bell which he published in the Bell Block erected by Wolf and Gravenor and the Odd Fellows lodge in 1895.



JACOB H. WOLF

Mr. Wolf was a keen hunter, a lover of outdoor life, and a very close observer of birds, animals and nature generally. He was a member of the Methodist Church of Primghar and a devoted worker. He served as postmaster from 1901-1909 and was Scout Master beloved by the boys of the Primghar Troop. He died in 1928.

Frank A. Turner was born in Illinois, October 13, 1856, and moved with his parents to Butler county, Iowa, in 1859. He attended college at Mt. Vernon from 1874-1876 and came to Primghar in 1880, where he was clerk with the firm of Schee and Achorn, bankers and land agents. He was employed in the Primghar Exchange Bank. No date of death available.

Primghar at the Turn of the Century

After the coming of the Railroad November 1, 1887, a new town came into existence. Many new buildings, all frame, were built, wooden sidewalks were put around the square, people moved in and Primghar became truly a county seat town.

At the turn of the century it is interesting to note the various business places. The Savings Bank building was located on the west side of the square. This building housed the bank on the corner, then J. L. E. Peck and Wade Artherholt's law office and also the offices of Dr. Brown and Dr. Bushby. Going north the Ocea and Mary Metcalf Millinery Shop was located. Then the Williams Bros. (Henry, Nate and Robert from Hartley), owned and operated an Implement Shop, Cream and Egg Station, a Drug Store, (Primghar Drug Store, D. J. Watters, Pharmacist), Men's Clothing Store, the Williams Opera House, the Undertaking Parlor, Furniture Store, also dry goods, grocery and meat market.

Across the corner on the north side of the square was the Holt Building, built by Dr. Holt, who had his dental office down stairs and living quarters above. Proceeding east there was a bowling alley and meat market owned by John Klink, the saloon, John Frahm owner, William Downing's law office, J. S. Ney Hardware

(the family lived above the store), Ed. Chapman Grocery and the Sayles building built by Attorney E. M. Sayles. On the ground floor he had his law office and living quarters were upstairs. This brick building still stands. The corner was vacant until the Hub Hotel was built in 1911 during the controversy with Sheldon over the Court house.

Across the street east stood the original Bell building built by Jacob Henry Wolf and Mr. Gravenor in 1884. The lower floor housed the print shop and the upper floor was occupied by the Odd Fellows. Just north of the Bell Building was the Dick Thomas livery barn, later sold to Mr. Baker. Crossing the street south still on the east side of the square the George W. Schee building stood. He engaged in the banking and land business. Just off of the square east of the Schee building was the Grand Hotel. There was a vacant lot south of Mr. Schee's office where Henry Rerick had a flower garden, the next building housed the Strandberg Tailor Shop (Gus and Carl) and the Post Office, then the Boyer Abstract Office and Montzheimer law office (now Rerick Abstract Building). The Farmer's Bank and Johnie Carmichael Harness Shop occupied the place where Seivert Furniture was built. Then on the corner the Reynoldsen Furniture and Hardware Store was located. Going south across the street the Griffin Saloon stood on the corner, then the Blue Shoe and Repair Shop, the Herb Thayer Land Office and the George North Livery Stables. Across the alley was a Wood Wright (Wheel) shop, Ed. Hastings' Blacksmith shop, the Primghar Democrat and Lincoln King's store. A feed store and cream station owned by Charley Gray was across the alley south of the First National Bank and on the west side of the street.

On the south corner of the square stood the First National Bank building and Hinz and Spears General store, completed in 1902. The Masonic Temple and Eastern Star hall were located above the store and a young lawyer by the name of R. J. Locke, just elected county attorney, occupied an office over the bank, then west of the store was a vacant lot (here in early days the Merry-go-rounds attracted every kid in town), Rosecrans and Clements General store, Rust Drug store (later Olander Drug Store), Manderville Hotel, Campbell and Powers Butcher Shop, John King Grocery and the Metcalf Implement and Hardware.

The fire of 1902 destroyed everything from the First National Bank building to the Metcalf building (both built of brick) and these business places were all rebuilt. Across the street west of the Metcalf Hardware was the Ober Hotel, the Jim Beers wood shop, and a Chinese laundry. The hotel and these buildings burned later. On the north side of the street just west of the Savings Bank there was the Huntley Photograph Gallery and the Baker livery stable.

Information from: Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Langley, Mr. and Mrs. George Mast, Tom Byers. Letter to Bell written by, J. F. Boyer of Los Angeles.

CHAPTER III – Early Days of Primghar

1888 to 1914

When the Illinois Central had finally brought Primghar to the "level" of other railroad towns in the county, and incorporation of the town had actually taken place a period of prosperity seemed to be on the way, and it was the proper time for a celebration.

Old Settlers Reunion And Harvest Festival - August 31, 1889

This celebration was actually a county-wide affair, but it was held in Primghar and the responsibility for the reunion was taken completely by Primghar citizens. It was as if the coming of the railroad and the town incorporation had finally given the town enough confidence in its own worth to invite the neighbors in for a party. The O'Brien County Bell of the date of September 5, 1889 devoted its entire front page to a description of the celebration and it continued through the entire second page. The editor and proprietor of the Bell, F. M. McCormack, displayed a spirit of pride in the town that must have made every visitor feel as if the celebration had been planned especially for him.

According to the account in the Bell the decorations were finished up in the early morning of the great day, when some citizens were up at sunrise to tack up bunting, stars and stripes, mottoes and pictures. There was a national salute of 42 guns, but the account does not say who performed that rite.

"One half mile from the Court House on all roads leading into town, and at the depot, was suspended 18 feet high a large banner 'welcome', each of which was decorated with either corn, flax, wheat, oats, hay twists, or veget-

ables; by this it was made manifest to all visitors that they were expected, and further that the town and all inside it belonged to them." An arch was placed at each corner of the square depicting various events of the town, some humorous, such as the loss of hair of David Algyer from 1871 to 1889, and some satiric, such as the large picture of a grasshopper named "O'Brien County Combined Reaper and Mower of 1876." One part of the southeast corner of the square displayed the old log court house and six officials, while a short distance away was Old Dutch Fred (Frederick Fielding) saying "I am de beebles, you fellers am de officers." In 1860 Dutch Fred was the only man in the county who was not an officer. The bands occupied the northeast corner of the square and many visitors ascended the steps to the platform under the arch to take a view of our little city and beautiful country surrounding.

The court house and "court park" were appropriately decorated on the east side by F. N. Derby and C. H. Winterble with pictures of the U. S. Presidents. The west side bore an arch of flags, which was placed by Ike Clements and J. W. Walters. Hundreds of flags floated in the gentle breeze in the court park where they were attached to the many trees which had been planted 14 years before. Some of these same trees are still in the court yard today.

The speaker's stand, 20x60 feet, and 4 feet high, was covered with flags and at the rear was a 3x20 foot banner "Welcome To All" with letters worked in sunflowers. There were 16 tables in the park, one for each township, each table being 80 feet long. At dinner time they were loaded "with enough

provisions to last the entire population of the county in 1860 for two years."

At the northwest corner of the square was the soldiers' monument, 14 feet x 14 feet at the base and 72 feet high. This was the headquarters of the old soldiers, where 140 registered for the day. The monument was appropriately decorated.

The decorations can best be summed up by saying "everything and everybody in Primghar was decorated, and the streets were a sea of flags."

Visitors came from every town, and delegations came from every township in the county. Every road was lined with teams, resembling a mighty army, some processions being two or three miles long. Excursion trains from Sheldon and Cherokee, every car packed with people, were met at the depot by bands and escorted to the Court Park. The Sanborn Band, the brass band from Caledonia Township and the drum corps of Charley West and the one from the town of Sheldon were present. C. F. Albright acted as first assistant marshall.

The marshalls issued the order to fall-in for the parade and the procession started from Derby's Addition (south end of "Silk Stocking Avenue"), now Elm St. Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Waterman were seated in a large and beautifully decorated carriage driven by John McCormack, their neighbor, and bannered "First Settlers of O'Brien County."

It was impossible to give a detailed account of the parade. Suffice it to say that the procession was filled with banners, mottoes, representations, horses that were in the county twenty years, harness made of rope and hay, hay twisters, sod shanties, etc. One of

the banners could perhaps be used today "Common Schools - the Hope of Our Country." Music came from the six bands which interspersed the banners and as the procession passed sixteen guns were fired, one for each township. For every township, every banner, every band, for every citizen and visitor in the procession came cheer after cheer from the spectators. It was estimated that eight to ten thousand people were present.

After the parade the crowd gathered around the speaker's platform where W. S. Wilson of Sheldon was chairman of the exercises (m.c. to us). Rev. Jones of Sanborn offered the prayer after which Mr. and Mrs. Waterman were presented to the crowd and cheered as the "Father and Mother of our County." The address of welcome was given by J. L. E. Peck. Parts of his speech show so much of the history it is well worth quoting here:

"We the people of O'Brien County, Iowa, have assembled here today in illustration of the Old and the New. A Harvest Festival is called representing the prosperities of the present time. An Old Settler's Reunion was suggested to revive the old memories among the older citizens. But in the great active field of a busy life we must largely let the dead past bury its dead. Life is real, life is earnest. This vigorous present is illustrated by the Harvest Festival feature of this great gathering. A bountiful crop coupled with a substantial soil that can produce a hundred more such crops suspends before us an Elixir of Life—a goal of grand possibilities. Do we realize it?

We have a soil that can raise a forest of weeds six feet high or a forest of grain that we see today, either at man's pleasure. Do we realize that in O'Brien Coun-



ty about ten years ago we had a population of only 4000 people, and have grown to 16,000? Do we realize that we have long outgrown the old homestead school-house shanty with a roof only on one side? That we now have 130 school houses erected on the hill tops of O'Brien County with no saloons in the valleys? Do we realize that this school property is worth close to \$150,000, and that the sum of \$46,700 was raised and expended this year for educational purposes? Do we realize that we have an agricultural backing that has warranted the building of over 90 miles of railroads? Do we realize that we have six incorporated towns with fully equipped municipal governments? Do we realize that most of our towns are passing out of the wooden building age? Do we realize that our tax valuation is over \$3,000,000 which makes the actual valuation over \$20,000,000? Verily O'Brien County is becoming a millionaire.

We find ourselves with 368,000 acres, 16,000 inhabitants, capable of furnishing homes for 20,000 more. Three fourths of the quar-

ter-section or eighty-acre tracts have been improved. Three fifths of this acreage or about 220,000 acres are in actual crop. These crops may be apportioned about this way:

30,000 acres flax at 10 bu. per acre—300,000 bu.

20,000 acres oats at 50 bu. per acre—2,000,000 bu.

40,000 acres wheat at 25 bu. per acre—1,000,000 bu.

40,000 acres corn at 40 bu. per acre—1,600,000 bu.

50,000 acres barley at 30 bu. per acre—1,500,000 bu.

40,000 acres grasses etc.

These are not figures built on wind, but actual figures which every farmer will vouch for.

All this wealth I have recounted, crops, improvements, railroads, schools, and all, are the joint work of both old and new settlers. In the name of the people of Primghar I extend to you the freedom of the city. Long live O'Brien County."

The response to the address of welcome was to be given by D. A.

W. Perkins of Sheldon, author of the History of O'Brien County which was published in 1897. However, Mr. Perkins was not able to be present and could only send a letter which was read as the next part and the closing of the program.

After the program, the crowd dispersed for lunch, nearly every family having brought a well-filled basket. When the parks and groves were filled with picnickers, the visitors used the lawns and homes of the Primghar citizens and "Spread their good things out, eating, talking, laughing, and enjoying themselves to the fullest extent."

After dinner the old settlers and friends again met at the speaker's stand and this time came for a really-truly love-feast. Again Mr. Wilson acted as chairman and called on various old settlers to recount their experiences. It was just the right thing to do, for many of the first settlers were still alive and could enjoy these visits with those of the other townships.

While this "love-feast" was going on for the old settlers, foot races were held in another part of the town, a baseball game was held in Derby's Addition (Primghar won over Sheldon), horse racing was held in the driving park west of town (H. C. Chesley took first money) and there was glass ball shooting, lawn tennis, and dancing on the 60 x 100 foot bowery.

A museum of relics was shown, but the account does not say where it was located. A "catalog museum" was listed—evidently books were rare and precious.

The account closes by saying "The city was beautifully illuminated for the evening with Chinese lanterns and locomotive headlights."

The Bell containing the account of the Reunion of 1889 also had a number of interesting advertisements. W. A. Rosecrans had a grocery on the south side of the square. J. S. Nye had a hardware store on the north side. Williams Bros. had kindly donated their double column advertising space to the report of the Reunion, but advised their customers to look for their ad next week. I. L. Rerick had an ad for the Home Insurance Co. of Paullina. S. C. Vail, Lawyer, had an office in Thayer's real estate building. H. O. Smith announced his candidacy for County Superintendent of Schools, subject to the decision of the Republican voters. F. M. Tifft had a livery stable and made a specialty of "Nobby Rigs and first class service." John Carmichael lost his hat at the Central (a cafe) at the Reunion and asked that it be returned as the letter "C" was worked in silk on the inside. O. H. Montzheimer had a Law, Land and Loan Office. W. S. Armstrong advertised he would pay the highest market price for hogs. E. W. Shuck offered for sale his farm of 300 acres near Primghar for \$40 per acre. John Butler of Gaza had invented a four-horse equalizer which could be attached to binders, mowers, reapers, etc. He wished to receive orders. Wm. Waters had seed rye for sale. Wagon repairs were done by Peterson's wagon shop over Beers' blacksmith establishment. First class meals could be had at the Central for 25 cents. Reader and Eddington had a new stock of clothing, hats and caps, in latest styles, also dry goods and groceries, china and queensware. Boots and shoes were advertised by H. Busse. The Primghar Exchange Bank had an ad. The Board of Supervisors by C. H. Winterble; Auditor, advertised for bids to furnish 26 tons of hard egg coal delivered before September 15, 1889. Hans Jons advertised that he was ready to do mason

work of all kinds on short notice. Sheldon Mills wanted all the hard wheat they could get.

The Primghar Market Report was as follows:

Hogs	\$300 to 325
Cattle	\$200 to 300
Wheat No. 2	50 to 62
Wheat No. 3	52 to 57
Oats No. 2	12 to 15
Oats No. 3	13 to 14
Barley No. 3	15 to 35
Barley No. 4	15 to 22
Flax	1.03

Timothy	100 to 110
Potatoes	30
Onions	00
Beans	00
Butter12
Eggs11

Before World War I

With the turn of the century the agriculture continued to develop and the land around Primghar increased in value. The following description of the pioneer farming is taken from an article by J. L. E. Peck as part of his papers on O'Brien County History.

SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADES - 1906



If known married name in parenthesis. Back row, left to right: Rosa Ortman (Kaiser), Walter Spears, Leora Ahrend (Randolph), Williard Eaton, Charlie Byers. Cora Ahrend (Geister), Richard Thomas, Eva (last name unknown), Susan Rust, Bruce Waldhelm. Fourth row: Edith Hatch (DeBord), Florence Seeley (Inch), Claire Chapman, Hazel Thayer, Clifford Farran, Elsie Watters (Epping), John Bossert, Della Millard, Bernice Johnston, Hilda Benson. Third row: Chester McClarey, Laura Peasley, Minnie Armstrong (Little), Dora Ortman (Schneider), Neal McGrew, Elsie Marsh (Jones), Phoebe Marsh, Leo Wieland. Second row: Warren Scace, Ernest Fritzsche, Agnes McCreath (Metcalf), Miss Fosburg, teacher; Anna Lynn, Charlie Cassidy, Johnny Chapman, Charlie Scace. First row: Frank Sanders, Harry Benner, Nellie Waldhelm (Towe), Lois Stewart (Nelson, Stewart), Vera McCroskey (Saupe), George Williams.

Future generations will inquire, not only how this country appeared, but how the first comers managed to live. Everyone was free to do as he pleased so long as he did not interfere with his neighbor. When the government had extinguished the Indian title the land was subject to settlement either before or after survey. The settler had no paper title, but simply the right of possession, which he got by moving on to the land and occupying it. The right of possession thus obtained constituted what was called a claim. These were regarded as valid titles by the settlers and were often sold, in some instances for large amounts. Pre-emption laws were passed at different times by Congress, giving to claimants who had made certain specified improvements the exclusive right to purchase the premises at the minimum price of \$1.25 per acre, provided they would prove their pre-emption.

When the settler had selected his location or made his claim, his first attention was directed to procuring a shelter for himself and family. If he was in the vicinity of neighbors he was sometimes invited to share their shelter until his was prepared. If far removed from neighbors he had to occupy his covered wagon until shelter could be provided. This was often a dug-out or sod shanty.

The prairie region offered advantages for an occupant far superior to a timbered country; in the latter the trees had to be removed and for years afterward the stumps prevented free cultivation; while on the prairie the sod only had to be turned, and the crop put in. The sod was turned by an ox team of six to ten yoke, with a plow that cut a furrow from two to three feet wide. It was found that the best time to break the sod was when the grass was rapidly growing, as it would then decay quickly, and the soil soon be mel-

low and kind; but if broken too early or too late in the season it would require two or three years to become mellow. Very shallow plowing required less team work and would mellow the grass much sooner than deep breaking. Prairie sod turned in June would be in condition to put in corn or oats the following spring.

The first crop was mostly corn, planted by cutting a gash with an ax into the inverted sod, dropping the corn and closing the gash by another blow along side the first. Or the corn was dropped in every third furrow and the second furrow turned on it. After the first crop the soil was kind, and produced any crop suited to the climate.

But when his crops were growing the settler was not relieved from toil. His chickens must have shelter; they had to be closed at night to protect them from the owls and wolves; his pigs required equal protection; and although his cow and oxen roamed on the prairie in a profusion of rich pasture, still a yard must be made for his cows at night and his calves by day. The stock all needed some protection from the fierce wintry weather, though sometimes they got but little. Add to this the fencing of the farm, the outbuildings, hunting the cows, going long distances to market and to mill, fighting the prairie fires and the grasshoppers, then the toil and the endurance of the settler can hardly be appreciated.

The wonder of it all was that so much had been accomplished by 1900; so many comforts, conveniences and luxuries crowned the efforts of the people. It was the toil of the farmers that made the farms increase in price; it was their toil that made the valuable improvements, planted orchards and gardens, made roads and bridges, converted a wild country

BUSY DAY AT FARMERS ELEVATOR - JUNE 1912



The men sitting on the wagon under the coal sign from left to right are Bill Waund, a child (unknown), Walter Green, Manager of the Elevator, W. H. Brown (Bernice Emory's dad), and Ed Fritzsche (Ernest Fritzsche's dad). In front of these men is Charles Potter (brother of Forrest Potter). Next to him with a white team is Tom Beyers and to the extreme left, next to the fences is Henry Westphal. Back of Mr. Westphal is Jake Kirstetter, (great uncle of Billy Waund). The others could not be identified. The mules on the driveway belonged to Adolph Klink.

into a land of beauty, and made it into a happy abode of intelligent men. It was, in fact, the accomplishment of their aim when they had come to northwest Iowa to make their homes.

The ability and custom of working together carried over from pioneer days and so it was natural that the farmers should join together in a cooperative effort to market their products. A Farmers Elevator was established in the early 1900's and continued as part of their efforts to help themselves until it was purchased by Willey

Bros. as related in the history of the Nicholson and Edwards elevator. To show the amount of business handled at this elevator a picture was taken in 1912 and is shown herewith. The Board of Directors of those early days is also shown. Naturally with the increase in the value of the farms the town also grew and prospered. Business to serve the needs of the farming community increased and with the prosperity came the efforts to make the town one to be proud of.

One of the cultural aspects was the emphasis placed on music and

DIRECTORS OF FARMERS ELEVATOR



Left to right: Wm. Randolph, Wm. Irvine, Geo. Pavik, Manager, W. H. Ortman, Ed Fritzsche and Wm. Klink.

education. The thumbnail sketch of Ralph Langley tells of his work in music. A picture of one of his early bands is shown and also one which shows the muddy streets of the early days.

Equally important was the continuation of the lyceum courses in winter and the chautauquas in summer. These courses at \$3.00 per season ticket for adults and \$2.00 for students could be compared to our present day night schools and adult education courses of today, for they kept the townspeople informed of what was going on in the world. It would seem that the attendance of those days far surpassed the attendance of today, for there never seemed to be any trouble underwriting the cost of these courses. Probably the lack of too many other forms of entertainment made the crowds fill the seats of the "Opera House" to the galleries. The left side back seemed to be reserved for the school children and even that was crowded. Perhaps there was less homework in those days.

The new school building erected in 1912 was the pride of the town and it was rated as one of the best in the county. The churches were flourishing as recounted in the chapter on their histories. Board walks were replaced with cement and brick sidewalks and the town began to assume the appearance of a well-kept, clean, prosperous community.

Speaking of the rating of the schools one unusual and irregular student deserves a place in the history of Primghar. "Jim Crow" was a pet of J. S. Nye who owned and operated the hardware store on the north side of the square. It is not recounted how he was captured, but Mr. Nye had split his tongue and trained him to talk. He would sit in the windows of the schoolhouse and squawk "Hot Fire" or "Hello Jim". He would also sit at the Court House windows and disturb the Court when it was in session. He must have been quite a nuisance, but he was a town pet and everyone felt sad

when he was shot for stealing chickens.

One of the signs that showed the progress of the town was the new buildings. The first business places had all been frame, but when the fire of October 31, 1902 took all the buildings on the south side of the square and later other single frame buildings were destroyed by fire they were replaced with fire proof brick and today a zoning ordinance rules out any but fire proof buildings around the square.

An example of the fire proof construction was the Hub Hotel and the following account is taken in part from the newspaper at the time of the county seat contest of 1911:

"The main objection Sheldon is using to the county seat remaining at Primghar, and the chief objection used in other parts of the county, has been Primghar's lack of hotel accomodations. This is fully recognized by Primghar people and steps were under way to remedy the matter before the county seat question came up, and and it would have been built had the fight never started. Primghar people are now forming a stock company for the erection of a modern hotel, costing in the neighborhood of \$25,000, and over half of the capital stock has already been sold and work will be commenced early in April on its construction.

"The hotel will be heated with a central heating system, each room will have hot and cold water, and in fact everything made strictly up to date. In brief, the business men of Primghar propose to build a hotel that will be a credit not alone to the town, but to the entire county, so that it will be a pleasure to come here and stay over night. Primghar people have a reputation for doing things right.

We never have an old settlers' reunion or celebration of any kind but what we try to out-do our neighbors. The same spirit will actuate us in the erection of the hotel. We want and will have something better than any of our neighbors.

"Will Primghar make a success of this movement? YES! Primghar always makes a success of anything she undertakes. We have had but two very small business failures in twenty years. Has any other town in the county a better record?"

The formal opening of the Hub Hotel was on Friday, December 8, and the following account of the occasion is taken from the Bell of Thursday, December 14, 1911:

"The formal opening of "The Hub" hotel Friday evening was a notable event in many ways and deserves far more than a passing notice. Arrangements were made by the hotel company through its board of directors and officers, and the price for the banquet was set at \$5.00 per plate. More than 100 tickets were sold and many more could have been; 88 participated in the banquet.

"In order to entertain the out of town guests and others who might wish to attend the Masonic hall together with the reception room, dining hall and other rooms of the Masons were prepared for the reception. Many who did not expect to take part in the banquet enjoyed the pleasures of the evening in the hall. The ladies of Primghar worked long, hard and skillfully in decorating and beautifying the lodge rooms. From 7:30 to 10:30 the guests indulged in social chat, the renewing of acquaintances, the making of new freinds, and in enjoyment of the program. There was a general drawing together. Past differences were forgotten. Here were present many who had

PRIMGHAR CORNET BAND



From left to right, front row: Geo. Spears, Ross Chapman. Center row: Milton Herrick, Harry Marsh, Ralph E. Langley, Claude Chapman, Chas. Liming. Back row: Howard Bailey, Elmer Bunce, Ray Porterfield, Everett King, Chas. Beers, Forrest Nye, John Yeager.

The band was the first to play in the new bandshell. They played for Liberty Loan Drives, Draftees at Sheldon, of which Edw. Leemkuil was one of those that left; and they played for the last Old Soldiers' Reunion.

participated on one side or the other in the recent county seat contest; both sides now met in cordial good fellowship as though no incident had ever occurred to mar or interrupt the friendship of former days.

John Sassano of Sioux City, veteran harpist, was present all evening and discoursed sweet music to the delight of all. W. S. Armstrong announced the program and at the opening made some appropriate remarks by way of informal welcome. Every number was enthusiastically received and applauded.

The following was the program:

A mixed quartette, Prof. Wood, Miss Johnson, Miss Peck, and Mr. Langley; Mrs. Hinman pianist.

A reading by Mrs. Fred Frisbee of Sheldon.

A male quartette: Mr. Wood, Mr. McDowell, Burdette Bossert, Mr. Langley; Miss Johnson pianist.

Solo: Miss Johnson; Mrs. Hinman, pianist.

The mixed quartette and the male quartette again sang two numbers each.

At the close of the program Mr. Boies, later Judge Boies, said that many present wanted to hear Mrs. Hinman sing, and she did so, accompanied by Mr. Sassano on the harp.

At 10:30 the Masonic hall was left for the hotel dining room where all the out of town guests were seated and as many from Primghar as could be held, but there was not room for all. The following menu was served:

Blue Points on the Half Shell
Consomme
Olives Celery Salted Pecans
Larded Tenderloins with
Mushrooms
Baked Young Turkey with Sage
Dressing
Domestic Duck with Jelly
Cranberry Frappe with Whipped
Cream
Rolls Mashed Potatoes
Nut Bread
Cucumber and Tomato Salad
Cherry Sherbet
Frozen Nesselrode Pudding
Edam Cheese
Long Branch Wafers
Coffee

At the close of the banquet Mr. J. L. E. Peck, toastmaster, took the floor and spoke for the people of Primghar.

This hotel is built for the cheer and comfort of all who come within our gates. It will fill three fields of service.

First. It will fill the local need in the way of a suitable place for the public functions of the town, perhaps even to the school banquets, as well as for family, Sunday, and holiday dinners. Second, it fills the need for the various items of county business convening here—the court in particular, with its judges, attorneys, witnesses, jurors, and litigants, as likewise the business connected with the sessions of the Board of Supervisors with its township of-

ficials, assessors, road supervisors, and school officers. This will include book and supply men; the county political conventions and consultations of political committees, the O'Brien County Insurance Association and lastly but not leastly all O'Brien County good citizens whom we especially welcome here as representatives of our people. Third, it will fill the need for everybody else, including the commercial traveler.

In short we built this hotel because it was needed and because we had to build it to meet county seat conditions. We stood loyally by our town. We believe we rose to the occasion. Others stood by their towns. That principle has developed all our towns, Sanborn, Hartley, Sutherland, Paullina, Archer, Gaza, Calumet, and Sheldon. Were I to propose any toast here tonight it would be "Loyalty to One's Town. Loyalty to One's Self, Speaks for a Better O'Brien County."

Mr. W. D. Boies spoke for Sheldon and stated that he regarded the county seat fight as permanently disposed of and what was now needed was a new court house because the old one was shabby, inconvenient, out of date, unhealthy, and a disgrace to the people of the county. Mr. Peck replied that Primghar merely awaited the wishes of the county and the suggestion coming from Sheldon would surely hasten the erection of a new modern edifice.

Reminiscences

With all the fame and notoriety of the Hub Hotel the other improvements of the town should not be forgotten at this time. There was a sewage system by 1911; there was a telephone exchange; the town had a water supply; and though the gas plant of the town was becoming obsolete there was an electric system

MUDDY STREETS OF PRIMGHAR



Above picture gives a good view of the mud streets of Primghar. The mud, however, didn't seem to bother the Primghar Cornet Band.

which was sold to Art Anderson in 1915. Though the cheese factory of the early years owned by W. S. Armstrong was gone there was still the Bristol Creamery east of town near the present town pump house.

Reminiscences

Some of our older citizens can well remember these days and have given us some of their reminiscences. Mrs. Jess Byers remembers well the board walks around the Court House Park as well as around the business places.

Mrs. Chas. Hinz remembers the board walks and the lines of hitching posts connected with chains that were around the square. Stores were open evenings when Hinz and Spears had a mercantile store in Primghar. Many times Charlie went to the saloon at mid-

night to tell a customer to come and get his groceries so Mr. Hinz and Mr. Spears could lock up and go home.

Mrs. Emil Olander remembers the wells at the four corners of the square. (The wells are still there and some of them can be used if necessary.)

Tom Byers recalled the fire that destroyed the postoffice on the south side of the square on Hallowe'en night of 1902. J. H. Wolf had his whiskers burned in the fire. Tom and Jess Byers rode into town from the farm to see all the excitement. A can of kerosene exploded near their horses which frightened them so they ran away. The horses were finally found somewhere between the square and the depot, but the boys had to walk home that night.

He also remembers that Charley Gray used a windmill to grind corn meal or rye for the community.

Mrs. D. C. Peck says the telephone directory of C. W. Smith was on cards when they bought the exchange.

She recalls that Douglas Peck, her husband, went to Sanborn and persuaded most of the people there to vote for Primghar in the Sheldon Court House Fight of

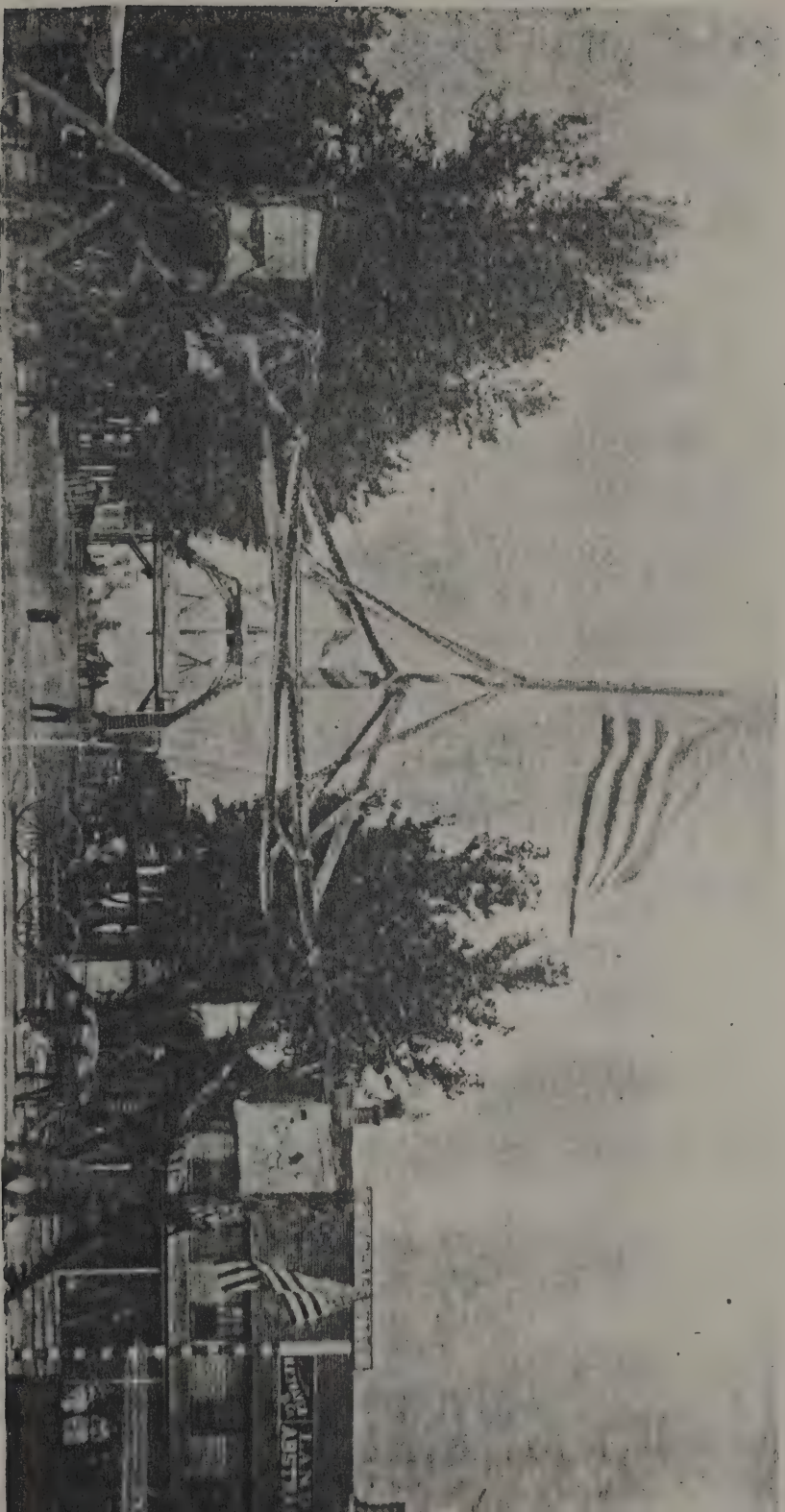
1911. C. H. Winterble went to Des Moines at that time to get a bill through the legislature that two-thirds of the voters must be in favor before a court house could be moved. Geo. W. Schee was a member of the House of Representatives at that time which helped the passage of the bill.

There were four passenger trains a day, one going north and one going south both morning and evening.



Looking east along the sourn or the square—1889 Old Settlers' Reunion

Looking north, east of Court House—1889 Old Settlers' Reunion.



CHAPTER IV – Modern History of Primghar

Period of World War I

1914 to Present

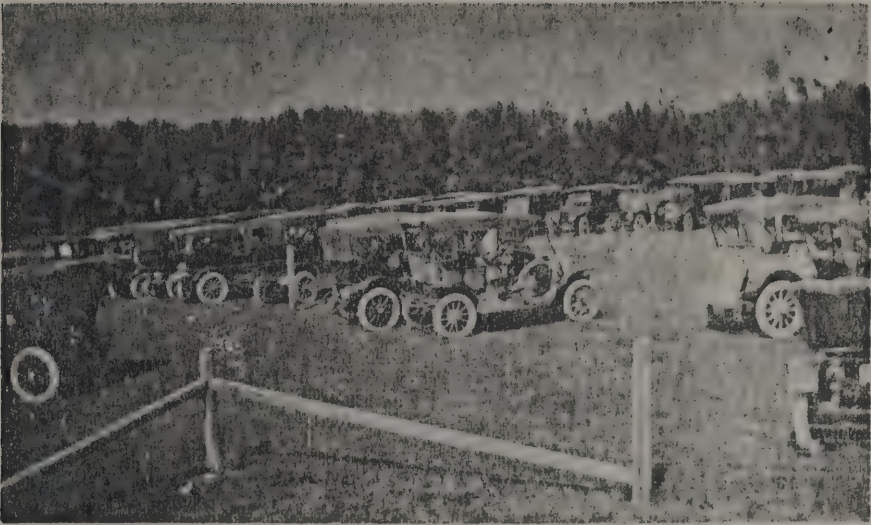
Although World War I opened in Europe in 1914 the western countries had a few more years to expand their economy and Primghar took advantage of the era to build further. It was in 1914 that George and Amy Ward gave to O'Brien County a hospital located in Primghar that was to be open to the use of any county doctor. A better gift could not have been received and the hospital is still in use though now belonging to the town of Primghar and named Ward Memorial Hospital. For further information on this important gift see the report of the Town of Primghar, of George and Amy Ward under Primghar People, and of the Hospital Auxiliary under Orangizations.

laying the cornerstone was held in 1915. A great crowd attended and enjoyed the day and the beautiful grounds, which were often used thereafter for picnics and group meetings. But both of these buildings were overshadowed by the construction of the present O'Brien County Court House which was finished in Primghar in 1916. The Bell of July 29, 1915 has the following item on page 1: "The first concrete for the footing course for the new court house was mixed and poured at nine-thirty this morning. It is quite a sight to see the mixing, elevating, pouring, etc. Two steam engines hissing and spluttering; black smoke pouring from the stacks; the revolving mixer, the big hopper sliding up and down; the concrete pouring down the chutes; twenty men all hustling about on



It seemed this was a period of a big building every year for Primghar, for the hospital was followed by the new O'Brien County Home, a mile and half east of Primghar, and the ceremony of

the keen jump. There were quite a lot of curious men and boys, fifty or more, who stood or sat around, interested spectators". For more information see Court House Buildings, Chapter I.



A good view of the "horseless carriages" at the eventful day of the Cornerstone Laying at the O'Brien County Home, 1915.



The above view appeared in the Bell Sept. 2, 1915, and shows the construction of the basement walls. The Bell published the following

story on what the court house would cost.

Some figures regarding the cost

of the new court house may be of interest to the taxpayers and residents of the county. The original general contract with Mr. Lovejoy amounted to \$118,302.00. Since this was awarded the board has decided to have bronze doors at the two main entrances, also to have the steel window frames and window sash throughout the building. These changes will require the expenditure of \$6,619.42 additional, which amount is of course added to the general contract, making its total cost \$124,821.42. The contract as finally awarded for plumbing and heating amounted to \$9,446.78, which added to the above, makes \$134,268.20. Architects

Smith & Keffer will receive five per cent of this last amount as their fees and payment for their superintendent, or \$6,713.31, which will make the grand total reach \$140,981.61. The contracts as they now stand do not call for the wooden furniture nor for steel fixtures for the vaults, but they do include four large steel counters for the main offices, also all electrical wiring and steel doors for the vaults. So it can be seen that there is left more than nine thousand dollars to be used in purchasing furniture and fixtures for the vaults and still keep the total expenditure within the \$150,000 limit.



Above picture shows the progress of the Court House construction. Note in the background is the old wooden Court House.

The entry of the United States into World War I brought an end to the construction period as thoughts of the community turned to the increase in the production

of food for the service men. As more boys left the farms for service, Primghar School sought to do its share by speeding up its program. School was held on Saturdays

as well as other days of the week, so the semester could close in late April of 1917 for the summer vacation. Thereby high school boys could either join the armed services or help out on the farms and release other men for service. Not to be outdone in helping, the business men of Primghar would close shop early in the afternoon, probably about three or four o'clock, and go out to help the farmers also, because hired help was hard to find.

Primghar, as the county seat, housed the draft board and sent the boys off to camp with the stirring music of Ralph Langley's band, farewell speeches, dinners and dances. The railroads played an important part in the transportation of men and supplies from this breadbasket of the nation to the war camps. Liberty loan drives were made and Red Cross groups were organized to knit and make surgical dressings for the boys in service.

The end of the war on November 11, 1918 brought great celebra-

tions, and soon the boys began drifting back home to take up their labors and services on the farms or in the small towns. Though we could list the soldiers who had come to Primghar after the Civil War, the great number of World War I veterans precludes such a list. Of course not all the boys came back. Mrs. Pauline Steffens, is the only Gold Star Mother of World War I still living in O'Brien County. (See Honored People of Primghar).

The boys seemed glad to return to the quiet, simple life of the community and many settled down to work on the farms. Life on the farms was still hard, but there was some advance in machinery. No longer was the grain cut and tied by hand. Cutting was done with binders and the shocking of the grain was by hand, but the threshing was done by the big steam threshing machines. Again the co-operative spirit of the pioneers showed up in the "threshing rings" through which neighbors shared the work of getting in the grain.



This picture was taken 46 years ago. Sixteen members of Center Township men, owned this outfit.



The men on this picture are from left to right: Albert Schroeder, Engineer; Julius Marquardt, Separator Tender; Nick Petersen, Water Hauler with horses for Steam Engine.

They often owned a big machine together and each farmer stood the expense of the harvest according to the amount of grain threshed for him.

Corn was the open pollinated type and only by trial and error was the favorite seed found which produced best on the various kinds of soil. It was the pride of the young farmers to pick the corn by hand and one hundred bushel picked per day was their aim. Itinerant corn pickers from the southern states came through in the fall and sometimes stayed through the winter to help crib the corn. Price of picking per bushel was usually not more than two, three or four cents, finally rising to seven and eight cents in the later years, but the men were housed and fed well, and the farm wives washed and ironed their clothes and even did patching and made mittens for them. Barley was still one of the important grains and fields of flax were still sea blue when in bloom on many a farm. Wheat and rye

had passed from the list of grains produced. Soy beans and grain sorghum had not yet arrived, but there was a little sugar cane raised as a curiosity in some field corners.

Because of the war, prices for crops rose steadily and corn reached \$1.63 on the market; oats, 80c and hogs were 17c per pound. With prices like these it was no wonder that land values followed and reached as high as \$400.00 per acre. Except for the slight recession in 1921, farming boomed along with the economy of the nation and not even the most staid business men saw the cloud of depression begin to form in the stock market "bulls and bears". Speculation in O'Brien farm land and by O'Brien people ranged with fantastic prices per acre and much of the buying and selling was done on paper only. How flimsy the paper was many an unhappy family found out after October 30, 1929, when the dark clouds of depression rolled over the land.

If the years of 1914 to 1930 were the years of growth and prosperity, surely the thirties were the dreariest and the most desolate ones that could be imagined in a rich farming area. Prices for farm products dropped so low it was hardly worth the effort to raise the crops. Corn went as low as nine cents per bushel, oats was five cents per bushel, hogs sold at two cent per pound, cattle at ten cents per pound, eggs were seven cents a dozen. Yet taxes were still high and interest on borrowed money was at five and six per cent and even up to eight per cent. Farm lands which had been priced at \$250 to \$300 per acre were now on sale for \$80 to \$90 per acre. Many a pound of hamburger was sold for ten cents. There was no money for coal so corn was used for fuel on some farmsteads. There was hardly enough money to buy salt for the vegetables that were raised in the garden. And the townspeople suffered with the neighboring farmers, for there was no business on the streets of Primghar.

Farmer's Holiday

One May morning of 1933 when farm foreclosures were almost as common as planting corn, a group of O'Brien County farmers who had joined the "Modern '76'ers" decided to take a hand in the county government and assembled at the court house with the firm intention of preventing Clerk of Court, Bill Hoeven, and O. H. Montzheimer, attorney for the insurance company, from carrying out the procedure of foreclosure on an O'Brien County farm. The "Modern '76'ers" were a radical group who had been organized by a man who had come out from New York City to Sioux City to incite the farmers of northwest Iowa against the government. The foreclosure sale was scheduled for

nine o'clock in the morning at the east door of the Court House. Before nine about 1000 farmers, from other counties as well as O'Brien, had gathered in the court house yard and were filling the halls and corridors of the court house itself. Having advance knowledge of what might happen County Attorney Lampman and County Sheriff Lemkuil had deputized 18 legionnaires from O'Brien County and stationed them at the 3 stairways leading to the 2nd floor of the court house. The deputies were armed with sawed-off pick handles, twenty-four inches long and two and a half inches in diameter, made of hickory with a looped thong in one end which would slip over the holder's hand so it could not be jerked away from him. That idea came from the town marshall of Paullina who had once worked for Scotland Yard. As the mob tried to get to the second floor the deputies would hit them on the head with the clubs and then jump back, and three deputies at the head of each stairway could keep them from coming up. While the Sheriff and his deputies held the stairways, Hoeven and Montzheimer went through the Board of Supervisors room and out a small door to the east balcony where the foreclosure papers were read, and the sale accomplished according to law. Fearing looting, John Yeager, County Treasurer, had locked the Treasurer's office and vault, but the rest of the county offices were open and trying to do business. The yelling and bedlam became so great nothing could be done.

Once the sale was over the mob withdrew from the court house and reassembled on the lawn and talked over their next step. This time they re-entered the Court House by two's and three's or even singly and went up to talk to the sheriff and sought to establish seemingly friendly relations. When enough were in and around the sheriff and

his deputies, they overpowered them and took their clubs.

They marched down the stairs with their victims, tore the American flag from the office of County Superintendent, Mrs. Margaret Mann, took it out in the yard, lined up the sheriff and deputies and compelled them to get on their knees and kiss the flag. Judge Bradley at LeMars was kidnapped

from his bench, threatened with bodily injury, forced to pray for his life, and heaped with unspeakable indignities.

After the events of the day the County Attorney, the Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors asked the Governor to put the county under martial law. The next morning two companies of the National Guard came to Primghar and two went to



One of the most famous (and dangerous) photographs that the Sioux City Journal's chief photographer, George Newman, ever took was this one of the sheriff of O'Brien County, Ia., being forced to kneel and kiss the American flag during Farm Holiday violence in 1933.

At that time, Mr. Newman was a photographer for the Sioux City Tribune. The negative for this photograph was lost when the two newspapers were merged, and only a copy remains, showing the effects of time.

Mr. Newman recalls that he smuggled the film out in his shirt and that he used back roads to get from Primghar to Sioux City with the precious photographs. He was stopped once by members of the Farm Holiday movement and was allowed to proceed only after promising that The Tribune would give a "favorable report" of the incident.

The sheriff was forced to kneel and kiss the flag to demonstrate his "patriotism", because it was considered "unpatriotic" to foreclose on farms back in those pathetic days.

LeMars. They asked for lists of people who had actively participated in the riot and after their arrests, took them to an army stockade at LeMars. Trials were held about a month later and most of the farmers were convicted on charges of conspiracy and inciting a riot, but the sentences were suspended.

The news of the riot made the headlines of the national and state papers, and whether for good or bad, Primghar was famous, for the time being.

Through the rest of the depression years Primghar gained one more claim to fame as a town without a bank failure. The same banks as those mentioned in the histories of Perkins and Peck and Montzheimer, namely The First National Bank under Ralph Hinman's guidance, and the Primghar Savings Bank under Wm. Briggs, managed to weather the storm and ride out the depression without closing. One result of these years was that for once even O'Brien County voted Democratic in the state and national elections.

Reunion of 1939

The slow rebuilding of the economy began under the farm programs of the national administration and once again the farmers began to paint up, rebuild, repair, and to show the world that O'Brien County farms were among the best in the nation. The insurance companies which had obtained possession of the farms by foreclosures sold again to farmers, and because of the rising prices of food for World War II the farmers were able to establish a fair equity in their places. In 1939 O'Brien County Rural Electric Cooperative was building its lines in the county and hope for relief from the darkness and drudgery of the farm work seemed near at hand.

Chapter III relates in some detail the Old Settlers Reunion of 1889 which surpassed all celebrations in the county up to that time. The same could probably be said of the Old Settlers' Reunion held in Primghar in 1939—50 years after the first one. And again it seemed to be held at just the right time, for the years of depression were over and the community looked forward to great prosperity.

Crowds at the Reunion were estimated at 20,000 and the parade was two miles long, featuring floats from every town and township in the county. There was a registration of old settlers by the years of their coming to the county. Those present and living longest in the county were E. W. Husted of Grant Township and Fannie Husted Nelson of Sioux City, both of whom had come in 1868. Jacob Waggoner of Old O'Brien and Edith Arrasmith of Cherokee were present for the year 1869. From 1870 were J. D. Towberman, Highland; Mrs. G. W. Nelson, Liberty; Clarence McDonald, Center; Charles Hedges, Center; Mrs. E. C. Dean, Highland. The listing below shows only those registered from Primghar as the full list became too long for this history.

1871—Alice Jones; Will Hardin; Mrs. George Chapman; Amanda Sanford.

1872—Esther Albright Winterble; Mrs. Sarah Ray; Hugh Brown; Grant Lyle; Stewart King.

1873—Mrs. John Mahoney; Edith Walker Burns.

1874—Mrs. J. E. Gere

1875—Mrs. Robert Miller; Will F. Wolf, Fred B. Wolf.

1876—None

1877—Edith Blanche Hastings; W. S. Cleghorn.

1878—Otto Ober; Charley Cooper; Douglas C. Peck; Jim Benner.

1879—L. T. Aldinger; Belle Hastings; A. L. Woodman; Mattie Benner.

1880—Mrs. Nick Steffens; William S. Schee; Mrs. Frank Hinz.

1881—Ernest Breyfogle; Mrs. Ezra Borland; Mrs. Lucy Doyle McDowell; Anna Jurgensen; Gib Benner.

1882—Ralph Hinman; George Slocum; Robert Miller; John Brundage; Chas. Winterble; Anna Erickson.

1883—Roy Rembe; John F. Smith; Wm. Miller; Mrs. Wm. Steuck; Hallie Rerick Rosecrans.

1884—Tom Kammerer; Mrs. Ella Benson; Florence Maronda; Ed Tjossem; Fred Dewey; Robert McCauley; Hal M. Algyer; Mrs. J. P. Bossert. Mrs. Emma Augustson; Lucretia Fisher Hardin; Mrs. Jennie Conn; Chas. Breyfogle; Mrs. Faye Scace; Raymond Johnson.

1885—Charles Hinz; Wm. Klink; John Klink; Adolph Klink; Edith Van Ben Thuyssen; Mrs. Alex Stewart; Arch Shearer; Ethel Shearer; Albert Klink; Mae Peck Culp; Mrs. Albert Klink; Mavis Bossart Rerick; Hugh Robinson; H. G. Shearer; F. R. Zinn; Frank Hinz.

1886—John Liming; M. T. Strand; Mrs. Alfred Smith; Mrs. Anna Thiessen; Ernest Riedemann; Faye Scace.

1887—George Mast; Mrs. H. O. Smith; H. O. Smith; Earl Armstrong; James McCreath; Edith Smith Hoffa.

1888—Green S. Wright; Mary J. Wright; Annie Johnson; Nels Johnson; Eugene White; O. H. Montzheimer; Ezra Borland; Mrs. Jess Byers; Henry S.

Murphy; J. E. Gere; Mrs. Dora Saupe; Jess Byers; Mrs. Annie Byers Smith; Bertha Peck; Mrs. George Wells; Mrs. Emma Fraser; Alma Strand; Frank Eddington; Ralph Brown; John Waters; Mrs. Cecil Dunn; Mrs. Robert Mattice; Mrs. Edith Chambers.

1889—Mrs. Vida Peck; M. S. Metcalf; J. B. Sanders; Tom Metcalf; Mrs. Wm. Randolph; Mrs. Ella Wilkinson; John B. Kopp; Minnie Akeson; Sarah Marsh; R. A. Buse; Mrs. Mayme Rembe; Edith Close Starrett; Rose Waddell; Hans Jons; Ocea Metcalf; Mrs. P. A. Morris; George McDowell; Mrs. Will H. Johnson.

This description of the Reunion is taken from the Bell of September 6, 1939, and because we found no other accounts we believe it worth while to preserve it in full.

IMMENSE CROWD JAMS PRIMGHAR

20,000 Attend Old Settlers' Reunion Here Thursday

O'Brien County's Old Settlers' Reunion is now history, but it is history that will live long in the memories of the estimated 20,000 who crammed the streets of Primghar from early morning to late in the night Thursday.

The celebration opened Wednesday evening when a good-sized crowd took in the dance, rides and concessions, but it was not until Thursday that the celebration got underway in full force when the vast throng stormed the various attractions all day long.

Memories of yesteryear came flooding back to old settlers and residents of the county as old scenes were reenacted and depicted in the mile-long parade which took nearly an hour to pass a given point. Spectators were amazed at the magnitude of the parade,

which was made possible by the splendid cooperation of the entire county. Many weeks and countless hours of preparation by participants were necessary to make this spectacle the thing of grace and beauty that it proved to be.

The square was lined with stands, concessions, and rides, except at the northeast and southeast corners where large dance floors were located. Colored lights were strung around the square and all lamp posts were decorated with stalks of good old O'Brien County corn and sheafs of grain, all of which lent a festive atmosphere to the celebration.

Bursting bombs throughout the day and evening from which animated characters floated earthward, added to the confusion of sound.

Five Bands

Five bands—Sutherland, Sanborn, Paullina, Worthington and Primghar entertained the crowd with individual concerts throughout the day and then in the evening massed into one great unit of nearly 300 pieces to present a stirring and memorable concert. Sheldon's clown band and Hartley's German band contributed to the merriment of the day. All of the bands named were in the parade, as was also Sibley's band, which was boosting the Osceola County fair.

Square Dance

At 9:30 in the morning, 24 couples, garbed in the dress of long ago, staged an old fashioned square dance that was a delight to the eyes of all who witnessed it, especially to the old timers who performed in just such fashion in their youth. Those composing the six sets were: (1) Mr. and Mrs. Edw. Leemkuil, Rodney Leemkuil and Irene Steuck, Dr. and Mrs.

Wagner and Craig and Mrs. Lampman; (2) Mr. and Mrs. Libby, M. Hopkins and Ellamay Hoeven, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Peck, and Wm. Kennedy and Bernice Bjork; (3) Mr. and Mrs. Bodwell, Mr. and Mrs. Edw. Fritzsche, Mr. and Mrs. Verdi Zook, and Mr. and Mrs. Eli Anliker; (4) Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Little, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Halbach, Mr. and Mrs. Dunrith Waund, and Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Streeter; (5) Mr. and Mrs. R. Parry, Mr. and Mrs. R. Harberts, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Painter, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Tjossem; (6) Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Mast, Louie Schaefer and Mrs. Walter Krumm, Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Robinson, and Ted Tjossem and Doris Dahlgren.

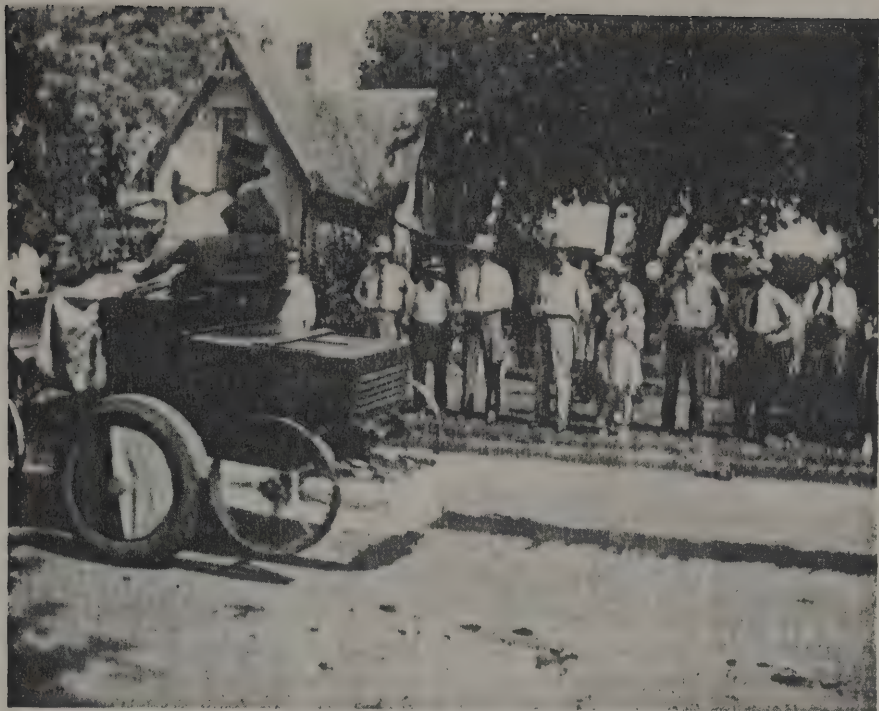
Later that evening both the old fashioned and the modern dance floors were crowded to capacity, with dancing continuing to a late hour, or perhaps an early hour would be the correct thing to say.

The Great Parade

Estimated to have been two miles in length and with more than seventy-five entries, the parade of floats marked the high spot in features at the Old Settlers' Reunion Thursday, and became the talk of the county as those in attendance commented on the big event afterwards. A Sioux Cityan in a position to judge, called it the finest thing of its kind he had ever seen.

Headed by V. J. Cassidy as marshal and W. L. Krumm and Andy Ohme as his assistants, the parade formed at the Howard Cook farm, proceeded west a block and then north on Main street passing in review before the throngs which made up the crowd of twenty thousand people, the largest crowd ever in Primghar.

Following the Marshall of the day was the American Legion color guard with a corps of members of



Mr. and Mrs. Herman Van Leeuwen riding on their entry in the big parade.

the Legion, followed by the great Worthington, Minn., marching band of about 40 pieces in beautiful uniforms and making the air alive with music. The committee was fortunate in securing this great organization, under the leadership of Victor Moeller.

Historical Floats

First floats in the parade was a group depicting the early history of O'Brien County. First in the line was the "Arrival of the Watermans", first settlers of the county, in a covered wagon drawn by a pair of oxen, driven by Milton Rockwell of Mapleside as Hannibal Waterman, with Bertha Peck, as Mrs. Waterman and Elsie Brown as the little girl, Emily.

The Watermans had driven from their former home in Bre-

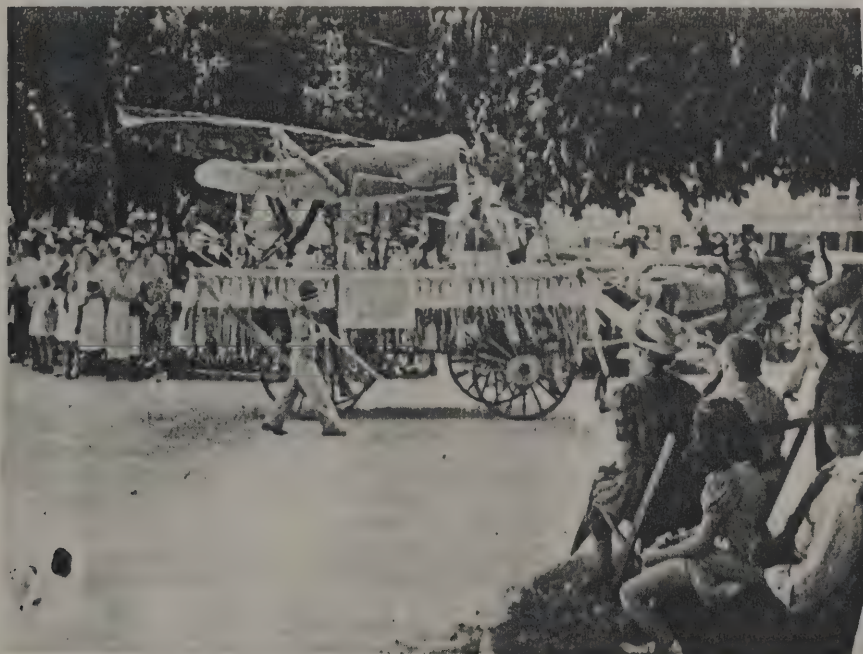
mer County, Iowa, arrived here July 1856, and became the first white settlers in O'Brien County.

Marching in the historical group but prepared by the town of Sutherland as their entry, was a float which was an exact replica of the Waterman log cabin, the first house to be built in the county. It was built of logs, cut and hewn to fit, with a real split shingle roof and an over hanging porch just as the Waterman's cabin was. Riding on the float were Jacob Waggoner, oldest homesteader still living in the county, T. B. Bark, and Mrs. Wm. Stockwell, oldest continuous residents of Sutherland, Mrs. Alice Schaefer and Chas. McCormack, announcer. The cabin was so well constructed that it has been placed in the Sutherland park as a permanent memorial. This float was

awarded first prize as a historical entry.

The visit some of the Indians who participated in the Spirit Lake massacre made the Waterman home two days before the massacre, robbing and abusing the Waterman family, was dramatically portrayed in another float, followed by a group of boys and girls on foot and on horseback dressed to represent Indians. Those who took part in this float were Geo. Little as Hannibal Waterman, Elaine Braunschweig as Mrs. Waterman and Herberta Stanley as Emily. Indians on the float were Lucille Locke, Lloyd Sheley and Geo. Fritzsche. Indians on ponies were Billie and Dickie Wagner, Loren Bonath and Forest Wilkinson. On foot following the wagon were Doris Farnsworth, Ruth Miller, Violeta Miller, Allen Williams, Junior Noe, Betty Jean Dewey, Frances Saupe, and Darlene Smith. The announcer was V. D. Peck.

The rascals who illegally held an election and organized the county for their own profit, were shown in the act of conducting the election of February 6, 1860. Ballots were received in an old felt hat serving as a ballot box. Persons who acted the part of voters were: Ronald Hooker as John H. Cofer; Fred Banks as A. Murray; I. R. Isenberg as James W. Bosler. Jerome Smith as Moses Lewis, Gordon Rosecrans as Henry C. Tiffey and Will F. Kaiser as I. C. Furber. H. H. Waterman the innocent victim was portrayed by James M. Metcalf. Hubert Schultz acted as orator and described the act, reading the court order which authorized the election and described the scene portrayed at the election I. C. Furber was elected county judge; Archibald Murray, Clerk of the court, H. H. Waterman was given the joint offices of Treasurer and Recorder. He was forced to resign soon after his election. I.



One of the many historical floats; "Grasshopper" illustrative of the "hopper" scourge in 1873-79.



Entries in the automobile division.

C. Furber as sheriff in charge of the election and seven votes were polled.

An allegorical float portrayed the starvation years from 1873 to 1879, when grasshoppers came by hordes and ate the crops. Oriana Rohlfing portrayed the crops and Richard Braunschweig the young farmer killing the grasshoppers. A guard of farmers of that period accompanied the float. Howard Tiemens, Gerald Ver Hoef, Bustin Johnson, Jackie Tanner, Ronald Harms and Phillip Kaiser were the farmers. The announcer was Ernest Reidemann.

The Sanborn raid of Nov. 23, 1882 when Sanborn citizens raided the court house at Primghar carrying away records and furniture was the subject of another float. All men on the horse drawn wagon were from Sanborn and men and women followed, representing Primghar's effort to recover the

property were from Primghar. The men who took the parts of the Sanborn Raiders were Dr. Eason, Earl Mayne, Harry Porth, Donald Faas, Justin Foley, E. Vant Slot, B. C. Timmons, Roy Tifft, Charlie Chambers, Glenn Dummett. Primghar men and women were Tom Byers, Ray and Jake Japenga, Mitchell and Richard Vander Tuig, Jon McDowell, Cyril Ganzevoort, Robert Pierce, Gene White, Dorothy Smith, Inez Yungbluth, Hallie Volink, Beulah Krueger, Geo. B. Brown was the announcer.

The bridge graft in which unscrupulous schemers of an early day sold and resold bridges in O'Brien County, piling up a debt of \$230,000, and also in Clay County was portrayed in the sixth of the group. Lawrence Speaker was the announcer on this float, and those taking part were Lloyd Borland, Cal Reiman, Bob McCauley, Vernis Tanner, Howard Borland, Lloyd



A 1907 Maxwell driven by Rodney Leemkuil.

Brown, Al Chambers, Lorne Robinson, and Joe Van Dyke. All of the historical floats except the Sutherland float were planned by L. O. Lampman.

Pioneer Reminders

The "Larson Pioneers", a float prepared by A. C. Larson of Highland township, portrayed the arrival of early pioneers in a covered wagon with farm implements which included a breaking plow fastened to the wagon and a cow tied behind.

"O'Brien County or Bust" was another covered wagon float. It was entered by Geo. McDowell. Household utensils, crowded out of the loaded wagon were hung on the outside.

D. C. Peck twisted hay on a float representing the way in which pioneers prepared the prairie grass for fuel. Robert Miller drove his float.

An old reaper, 75 years old, and a breaking plow, such as the pioneers used in turning the virgin sod, were unusual pieces of old machinery. The old plow was entered by Wm. Brady of Waterman. The reaper is the property of the International Harvester Company.

Two characters which attracted attention were Harve Hadden and Chas. Mast dressed as "49ers" riding pack mules. They looked the part. Six boys and girls were entered in the bicycle parade, with bicycles all dressed up for the occasion.

Members of the Primghar card club rode in an old Automobile.

Township Floats

Township floats were outstanding in subject and construction. Center township 4-H Club girls entered a float with the caption "Thanks Old Settlers for Our Homes", beautifully decorated in



Float depicting how pioneers came to O'Brien County.

green and white, and 4-H club emblem, the four leaf clover, and won first prize in township floats.

Highland township 4-H girls club used their Achievement Day project, "The Making of House Coats" as the feature of their float.

Caledonia township's float portrayed an evening at home with music, reading and sewing in an early day family scene.

"It's the Little Things That Count" was the title of the Dale township float. The float placed third.

Baker township's float, O'Brien County 1859-1939 won second prize. It featured Primghar as the queen surrounded by girls representing the other towns in the county. The float was decorated in pastel colors.

Union township's float portrayed a sod house with the family enjoy-

ing a quiet time together around the door stoop. An old walnut cradle held a baby and there were young trees in the settler's back yard.

All of these floats required a great deal of preparation and were beautiful entries. They contributed much to the success of the parade.

Sixty years in Carroll township was represented by N. L. Youngers, that township's oldest continuous resident.

Town Floats

Paullina's float beautifully decorated, and captioned "Paullina 1883-1939", was prize winner of the town floats. Mayor and Mrs. Edw. Hillker dressed as in 1883 were seated on the float and Bonnie Belle Loucks and Ruth Butterfield in bathing suits stood in the foreground. The feature of the float called attention to the difference between then and now.

1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 25



A look backward at farm implements.

This winning float was a real beauty and Paullina citizens took real interest and spent nearly \$150 in its construction.

A humorous float was entered from Sanborn with the caption "Sanborn's Scream Line of 1885". Miss Rose Steuck pushing an old fashioned baby buggy with a large doll as a baby. This float placed first in the humorous class.

Sanborn's band marched in the parade and Primghar's band not yet trained for marching, rode on motor drawn platforms.

Sheldon's Legion Auxiliary entered a float depicting an old time gathering of women. Music was played on an organ as the group, in costume, sang Swanee River. Second prize went to this float.

"Lest We Forget" captioned the American Legion Float, with a replica of the tomb of the unknown soldier, and the white crosses of

burial grounds. This float was also very effective.

Rebekah and I.O.O.F. Lodges entered a handsomely decorated float for their order and the W.C. T.U. was also represented.

Many people were surprised at the number of old buggies and cars which appeared in the parade, every occupant being dressed in costumes of many years ago. There were three or four old cars besides those entered by business firms. Will Steuck of Center township drove a Model T Ford of the vintage of 1911 to win a prize. He also entered a 1915 Model T Ford. Sheriff Edw. Leemkuil drove a 1907 Maxwell. Art Lange drove an old brougham and an old carriage belonging to Mrs. Jane Herrick was entered. Wm. Buse also had an old buggy in the parade. E. Rembe had his family out in a lumber wagon in early day style.



Paullina Fire Department depict firemen of yesteryear.

The writer was especially surprised at the many Shetland ponies. In one section there were fifteen or twenty, with boys atop.

Many Business Floats

Many business firms were represented. Sloan Motor Co. drove a 1914 Model T Ford.

Cambier Motor entered a 1901 Oldsmobile.

Primghar Savings Bank was represented by an old stage coach drawn by four horses.

Elite Cleaners drove an old two seated buggy.

Seivert Furniture entered a decorated float showing mattresses.

Kaplans attractive float welcomed the visitors.

Anliker & Son, grocers, entered a decorated food float, with a family having dinner.

First National Bank's float was a golden horn of plenty, and was designed to commemorate the bank's fiftieth anniversary. This float was drawn by four handsome black horses.

Cassidy & Halbach constructed a huge horse on a tractor, the "horse" was driven by John Vincent Cassidy.

Irwin grocery's float bore the first bath tub in the county, once the property of the late J. H. Wolfe.

Strandberg Clothing Co. drove a 1909 Buick, with the slogan "May We Continue To Serve You".

Jobs Variety Store entered an acrobatic car, a huge toy.

Henry Rerick and Sons, abstractors, chose a carriage of an early day.

The Primghar Telephone Com-



Old time horse and buggy.

pany was represented by an old fashioned carriage also.

The O'Brien County Abstract Company entered an old fashioned cab.

Standard Oil Station observing the Golden Anniversary of the founding of the company which is this year, entered an appropriate float.

McCormack-Deering entered machinery.

Gamble Store's float bore a radio broadcasting tower.

Ye Topnotte Shop entered a girl on horseback.

Doris Dahlgren rode, in an old fashioned riding habit on a side saddle for the Hub Hotel.

The Olander Drug Company entered a beautiful and elaborate decorated float with the dispensing of drugs and a bridal couple and their gifts.

Ralph Steen's float showed his work of painting houses.

O'Brien County Co-operative Creamery's float depicted that business.

Small tractors and wagons represented the John Deere Implements.

Agricultural Conservation Association's float portrayed the "Ever Normal Granary".

R.E.A. was represented by their line truck.

The Municipal Plant light and Power entered Primghar's fire truck.

A wagon was drawn by four handsome Percheron horses for Thompson Bros.

Henderson's of Paullina also drove a four horse team.

Hartley's Corn Husking event



The "Court House Raid" was entered by Sanborn.

was advertised by a car entered in the parade and a number of Hartley business firms drove their trucks or motor cars.

Hartley Legion had a float representing their Pig Project.

Paullina Sales Company also had a car entered.

Texaco Oil Co. entered a truck.

Mobiloil Company had a car in the parade.

Bicycle Prizes

In the bicycle parade, Alice Ann Strandberg was awarded first prize for girls and Marilyn DeRoos, Sanborn second prize. Paul DeKok received first prize for boys, Leland Cooper second and Kenneth Krueger third.

2000 Fans See Ball Game

Aurelia's Merchants combined timely hitting with Algonia's wild

pitching and various fielding lapse to defeat the Brownies 8 to 5 here Thursday afternoon before a large Old Settlers' Reunion day crowd.

The crowd began gathering immediately after the parade, and in a half hour a couple of thousand fans had gathered. Because of the great crowd, many preferred to walk the quarter mile to using the cars.

The Brownies out-hit the Merchants, ten to eight, but three fast double plays by manager Watty Holm's men stifled potential rallies in the second, fourth, and seventh innings.

The Prize Winning Floats

Never have O'Brien County people at one time seen so many floats or any more beautiful or fitting. The fine cooperation in the towns of the county made this really an O'Brien County parade. Shel-



The recreation of the sod shanty.

don, Sanborn, Hartley, Sutherland, Paullina and Primghar had floats. Many of the townships had fine floats—all a credit to the best county in Iowa.

Floats exhibited were so numerous and of such fine workmanship that judging them was a difficult task. However, the judges reviewed them without partiality and selected those floats which they considered most worthy of prizes. Following is a list of the winners.

Out-of-town floats: Paullina, first; Sheldon, second; township floats: Center, first; Baker, second; Dale, third; most humorous interpretation: Rose Steuck, Sanborn; oldest car still running, 1911 Ford, owned by W. F. Steuck; (no award given for oldest car as it was from Primghar, and was thus ineligible) historical floats (one prize) Sutherland.

Awards for the best costumed women: Mrs. David Norton, San-

born, first; Mrs. Clara McMillen, Sanborn, second; Mrs. H. R. Henderson, Paullina, third; Mrs. Verne Shoneman, Sheldon, fourth.

Whisker Club Winners

Undoubtedly the Whisker Club did more to advertise Primghar and O'Brien County's Old Settlers' Reunion than any other thing. The Whisker Club had a membership of about 125 and the wearers of beards wore them in all styles and colors. Special trips were made to the Peterson celebration, Sheldon Air Show, 4-H Club Days at Sheldon, Firemen's celebration at Paullina and also to Hartley, Sanborn, Sutherland and other nearby towns.

The proud possessor of the champion beard was Chas. Mast, Dale Nelson, second; V. Tanner, third. Harry Lemke was awarded a special prize for his crop of whiskers.

Various Street Contests

The two teams which engaged in the water fight were composed of local men, with Nelson Henline captaining the winners and Paul Koepp in charge of the losing side. Two points were scored in succession by the Koepp men, a point being awarded each time a barrel, placed in the center of the street between the two forces, was moved a certain designated distance. As the fight was arranged on a two-out-of-three basis. It was unnecessary to contest for the third point.

Horse-Shoe Pitching

The horseshoe pitching contests were divided into three classes with awards given to the three highest scores out-of a possible 300: class A: V. Taylor, Kingsley, first, 243; W. C. Putman, Kingsley, second, 237. Jake Merry, Primghar, third, 236; Class B: Jake Merry, Primghar, first, 215; E.

Taylor, Kingsley, second, 210; Jake Merry, Primghar, third, 208; Class C: H. Rohwer, Paullina, made a clean sweep of all three places, with scores of 198, 194, and 189.

Tug of War

The tug of war between teams from the east and the west halves of the county was won by the east under rather strange circumstances. The west side had pulled several of the members of the east team across the center line and thereby appeared certain of victory, when someone in the crowd yelled, "That's far enough", where-by the west relinquished its hold upon the rope, only to be filled with chagrin when the east quickly pulled it across the line. Harold Conn led the victorious east and George Horstman commanded the west. Members of the teams who have not received a share of the prize money will be paid if they will call upon Mr. Horstman and Mr. Conn.

Weather Ideal

The weather was ideal for a celebration and stands and restaurants were filled to overflowing all day and evening. The crowd was good-natured, obviously out for a good time and very little disturbance was noticed, except for the fact that pick-pockets in the crowd gathered several wallets before their presence became known.

The executive committee and the various other committees deserve unstinted praise for the great success of the reunion. The uninformed have no conception of the weeks of labor, the long hours, and the time and energy they devoted to making the reunion a thing to be long remembered.

All in all, the Reunion was a celebration of which Primghar and O'Brien County can well be proud.



Mr. and Mrs. Herman Van Leeuwen in costume for the 1939 reunion.

Twenty thousand people, an amount greater than the population of the county had a marvelous time and, after all, what more can be asked than that!

ANTIQUES AND RELICS ATTRACT MANY

Exhibits Tell Stories of Early History of County

The antique and relic exhibits at the Old Settlers' Reunion at Primghar Thursday, played no small part in the success of the day. The committee estimates more than a thousand different items were on display in the various store windows about town, and a crowd of spectators viewed the reminders of long ago throughout the day. Space will permit mention of only a few.

Among the items of special interest were those which had direct bearing on the history of the county such as original land grants found in the window arranged by Sanborn. There was also a map of O'Brien County of a very early day probably about 1873. The hub and some spokes from the new wagon used in the raid of 1882 when Sanborn attempted to steal the court house from Primghar, were on exhibit in another window.

The Sutherland Library entered for display, books published in the eighteenth century, once the property of Mrs. Roma Woods Wheeler who established the library at Sutherland in 1874. It was the first library in the county and seventh in the state.

Several old spinning wheels were entered and one at least, was in working order. It was made in 1826 and belonged to Mrs. Wm. Hendry. Mrs. Knute Fjeld demonstrated the almost lost art of spinning, at it. There were other interesting pieces of old furniture

many of which were more than a hundred years old. Among them was a table belonging to Mrs. I. R. Isenberg 125 years old and once the property of her great grandfather. An unusual bassinet belonging to Mrs. Chas. Winterble was on display.

In an exhibit of old dresses there was one made in Italy, the property of Mrs. Benson, Sutherland. There were a number of lovely coverlets which were very old. One centered by Mrs. L. O. Lampman was made in 1804. Mrs. T. W. Irvine's bore the date of 1842; one belonging to Alice Jones was dated 1839 and two old ones were exhibited by Mrs. Clyde Mann.

Members of the D.A.R. at Sheldon had an interesting window. A coverlet in this window, once the property of the late Mrs. F. A. Gere was 150 years old. An old Paisley shawl belonging to Mrs. Samuel Lyle A. Grant. Peace plate from the collection of Mrs. G. C. Murray and a ninety year old picture of Washington attracted attention.

A spinning wheel made in Iwerness, England in 1800, the property of Mrs. Clara McMillen, Sanborn, was on display in the Sanborn window.

There were many pieces of China, glass and pottery. A set of dishes used at a dinner in 1831 for the board of directors of the first successful railroad in the United States belonging to J. R. Sloan was shown. Dishes from the Paris exhibition of 1853 were the property of the late Mrs. L. F. Wilson; a platter belonging to Mrs. R. C. Appledorn was 87 years old; a copper tea pot the property of Mrs. Emma Augustson was 100 years old. A Westward Ho glass fruit dish, belonging to Mrs. Grace Loathan.

Another interesting window was a group of dolls, of which one given to Mrs. Matilda Ortman 62 years ago, was the oldest. Another old doll belonged to Mrs. Florence Maronda and was 61 years old.

In a window of antiques and relics from Hartley was a Seth Thomas clock made in 1854 belonging to J. W. Patton and a hand made lamp of iron, the property of Mrs. L. W. Putnam. An old fashioned dress worn by the mother of J. C. Mansmith was on display here.

Mrs. Ada Wolf Gilmore, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, shipped by express some interesting antiques, among them a tiny Budha 510 years old, a gift of her late husband from a Chinese Budha priest who became converted to the Christian faith. Once snowy white, it is now a dark brown. She also sent a cockade, and drum sticks, the property of her great grandfather Jordan a soldier with Washington in the Revolution.

A collection of old coins belonging to Ralph Harberts was interesting as were other exhibits of old coins and paper money. The original charter given the First National Bank in 1889 was shown.

Among other interesting exhibits were a hamper more than 100 years old, belonging to Mrs. J. Mehrens, Calumet; hand woven linen from England the property of Mrs. O. H. Gandian, Calumet; a food chest, dated 1849, used on a trip from Norway and belonging to Mrs. Chester Skaar; a Wheeler-Wilson sewing machine of 1854; and old cradle for reaping grain; an old three tine pitch fork made entirely of hard wood; a pistol of 1812 property of Sam Omer, Sanborn; a picture of Abraham Lincoln bearing his own signature, the property of Mrs. Lincoln King; An old clock all of wood except

one wheel, belonging to L. O. Lampman; A spinning wheel with a large wheel, entered by D. C. Peckham of Gaza was 100 years old; A trunk which came from Norway in 1874 belonged to C. Chalstrom's mother; A slate made by Mrs. R. W. William's father in 1822.

There were many old and valuable books and pictures, too numerous to describe. A number of old firearms, powder horns, etc., were also entered. Some of these came to O'Brien County in covered wagon. The exhibit was in itself an entertainment and an education, and was another feature made possible only through the fine cooperation of all the towns in the county.

EARLY SETTLERS CAME FOR REUNION

John D. Towberman, an early settler was present at the Reunion. His father came to the county in 1870 and homesteaded land in Highland township. For many years among other activities Adam Towberman brought seedling cottonwood trees from the Missouri bottom lands near Sioux City. With a light wagon he could bring fifty to one hundred trees on one load, selling them at from \$2 to \$8 per thousand. Most of the cottonwood groves in the county have been thus started. In the early 80's Adam and his son John operated a furniture store in Sutherland which was destroyed by fire in November 1884. Prior to that, commencing in 1872, Adam Towberman had been county bridge builder and he was succeeded by his son in that capacity in 1897. At one time prior to 1888 the father and son operated a store in Primghar selling general merchandise.

Adam Towberman is dead and his son has been in northern Minnesota, at present residing in St.

Paul with his daughter. Mrs. John Towberman was a sister of Mrs. Henry Rerick.

Mr. Towberman visited here four days with his nieces Mrs. Earl Rosecrans and Miss Dana Rerick and friends and enjoyed exchanging experiences with hundreds of old time acquaintances.

EARLY DAY BANKER HERE

George R. Slocum of St. Paul spent three days here last week with friends. He organized a private bank here in 1882 and was associated with Frank R. Turner, who later was Clerk of the District and Circuit Courts.—In 1889 Mr. Slocum organized the First National Bank of Primghar and was managing officer of that institution until 1900 when he went to St. Paul and engaged in the sale of real estate. Companies organized by him bought and successfully sold over 300,000 acres of Minnesota and Wisconsin lands over a period of twenty years while he resided in St. Paul. He was known to every old settler in the county during the eighteen years he lived here and he found over a 100 who were glad to renew their friendship for him last Thursday.

REUNION RESULT MONTHS OF WORK

Many Come From a Distance —Entertainment For All

(by Atty. Montzheimer)

When we realize that over a thousand persons in every city, town and township in the county spent months in planning for Old Settlers' Day, we are awakened to the groundwork accomplished in making last Thursday's celebration a success. While the Primghar Commercial Club organized and managed the campaign and every member did his utmost to

make the meeting a success, the real credit is due to the men, women and every human soul in the county who put his or her shoulder to the wheel and worked for success.

The men raised whiskers and assumed frock coats, tall stove pipe hats, ruffled shirt fronts, tight fitting trousers and old time costumes. The women organized, adopted old time garments—everything from poke bonnets, hoops, skirt extenders, bustles, sun shade umbrellas, long dresses with mutton leg sleeves. And the children were not neglected, everyone assumed a costume. And many wore them for weeks before the reunion attending celebrations in adjoining communities and furnishing aid in advertising by exhibitions of their ornaments.

It took six months of hard work to complete the preparations. Twenty-one different committees, each with a membership of a dozen or more, worked out the details diligently and continuously.

Municipalities and townships furnished floats and sent huge delegations to attend. Those who came were treated as friends and old acquaintances and were given a heartfelt reception. Entertainment was free and a warm class of friendship was extended. Every moment the visitors were in town they were made to feel that they were being royally entertained. They enjoyed it, were happy and delighted in renewing old acquaintances.

Many came from a distance. Visitors from Seattle, Washington, Gillette, Wyoming, Chicago, Wichita Falls, Texas, and hundreds of towns in adjoining states were here. Primghar furnished the excuse for their coming but it was the visitors that made the meeting a success. They were giv-

en a warm welcome but they joined in entertaining their old friends and exchanging stories of their early experiences.

Seats were provided for all who cared to use them, and every thing possible that could be done for their comfort was provided. From eight in the morning continuous entertainment was provided. Seven bands were present all day and an orchestra from Omaha furnished the music for the modern dances. Accordians and fiddles kept the old time dancers in motion. And of course the old time square dance caller was here with his poetry and song in giving orders for the changes. It was just one continuous old fashioned "calico hop."

Primghar has always been noted for its hospitality and no one has forgotten for a single moment and every desire of the visitor had been anticipated and furnished. Houses were opened, lawns were utilized, public parks were filled with seats and the entertainment committees catered to the human interest of the guests. Welcoming the attention, the visitors evidenced their appreciation by aiding in entertaining each other.

We have had several old settlers reunions but the horse and buggy days could not furnish facilities for quick transportation and the automobile made the meeting a success.

World War II

The farms were just beginning to be profitable operations again when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and again the country was hurtled into a world wide holocaust. Boys from Primghar were again called to service and there are today 3 Gold Star mothers of World War II living in Primghar.

Mrs. Marie Gipson is the mother of Calvin Gipson, Airplane Machinists Mate, 1st Class, who lost his life on March 22, 1945 when his plane was downed by the Japs on the coast of China at Amoy. Calvin's group was cleaning out the channel for the English fleet to go through when bombed. He was buried near Amoy but later returned to San Francisco in October of 1947.

Mrs. Elizabeth McCauley is the mother of James McCauley. Sgt. McCauley was first reported missing in action February 25, 1944. On May 24, Mrs. McCauley was notified that her son James was Killed In Action February 25, 1944 over Germany.

Mrs. Chas. Nelson is the mother of Byron Henry Nelson who was a nose gunner in a plane shot down over Lake Tasamania, Italy on April 25, 1944. Thirteen planes had gone out, but only three came back after an attack by German fighter planes. Byron's brother, Orville "Toots" Nelson, had gone to visit him at camp and waited for him to return, but he never saw him again.

The usual stepped up activity of a country at war was felt even in small towns such as Primghar. The service men were again registered at Primghar and dispatched to the training centers if they passed their physical examinations. As usual in war time there was emphasis on the production of food stuffs and again the business men closed up early during harvest season to help the farmers get in the crops. There was found to be a need for the conservation of scrap metals, and the rationing of certain scarce products. A rationing board for the County was set up at Primghar to ration out gas, shoes, machinery, cars, wire, sugar, and other products with a stamp system. Scrap drives to pick up cast off alumi-

num, copper, iron and steel were organized and patriotic citizens gave all they could.



V. J. "Bid" Cassidy was a busy man during the 1942 scrap drive.

Prices for farm products again rose with corn selling as high as \$2.71 per bushel and oats up to \$1.25. By this time soybeans had become one of the main crops replacing barley to a great extent. Grain sorghum was introduced, but has not yet become as common as soybeans. In the efforts to produce more and more food for the armed services and our allies of the war, new machinery was in great demand to take the place of the hand labor which had gone off to war. With high prices for grains, hogs, cattle, chickens, eggs, etc., land and machinery rose in value. However, this time there was less speculation and when land was bought and sold, hard cash took the place of the paper transactions of the period after World War I. Again some well-improved farms sold for over \$500 per acre near Primghar.

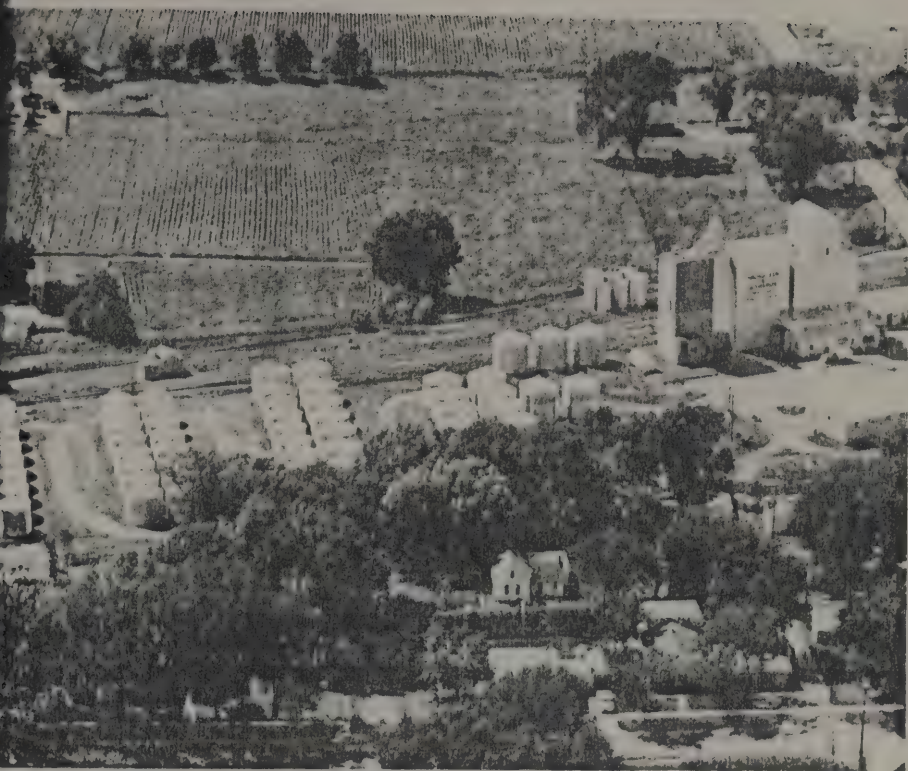
The results of the inflated

prices were not all good. Investments in the land and the huge machinery by the individual farmer made it mandatory that the farms increase in size to spread the costs over greater areas of production. Even without a great labor force the production of each acre increased, and great surpluses began to pile up. Had it not been for the federal farm price support programs prices would surely have dropped again.



October 27, 1942 — Scrap drive
1. Otto Mattice; 2. Fritz Franzen;
3. Walt Krueger; 4. Hank Heimesen.

Young farmers returning from the armed services were not able to purchase either the machinery or the land to start farming. Combines which took the place of the steam threshing machines and corn pickers which took the place of the men and teams were huge pieces of equipment that were extremely high priced—and yet the farmers felt they could not take care of the large number of acres without them. Horses, except for the children's pleasure or for



This is an aerial picture of the grain bins (government) taken in 1960.

show, have almost disappeared from the farms and huge tractors, not one, but several, are found on every farm. A quarter section was adequate to support a farmer and his family in good style in the early years, and once his quarter was paid for many a farmer considered that he could retire and live off his farm's rental. Today a quarter section may be the home place of a farmer, but usually he is also farming another eighty or quarter for his neighbor who has given up farming for a job in town. There was a change in the crops as well. Open pollinated corn gave way to hybrid corn almost entirely and a whole new business of selling seed corn was opened up. Commercial fertilizer became a common necessity. Weed sprayers and rotary hoeing took

the place of some of the cultivation. Hay was baled rather than stacked and big barns became less necessary. Hired men who once lived with and almost became part of the family were replaced with tenant families who live in a small extra house on the farm.

With all these changes and the greater investment required, unless he had parental help a young man could not start farming and most of them drifted from the farms and small towns back to the cities to find work. Consequently the farms became larger and larger and the number of farms grew smaller and smaller. The smaller the number of farmers, the less business there is in the small towns.

FARMING — THEN AND NOW



Threshing time—this picture is typical of the way farmers worked years ago. Man in center holding water pail is John Klink.



Many horses make lighter work — Plowing, 1915



Corn picking, 1920 style.



Now big machines like this one pictured above do the work of many men. This is a John Deere 4-row combine picker-sheller, owned by Bill Waund.

Weather Conditions

Just in case the people of the area might forget the trials of the pioneers, nature took it upon herself to remind them of the hardships of the prairie. The drought and the dust storms of the years from 1933 to 1935 added to the discouragements of the depression. It seemed useless to clean house, for the next day the window sills would again have little drifts of silt. Dust was piled against the fences just like snow except for color and it lasted longer. Travelers recounted tales of dust so thick in the air they could not see to drive. The hot, dry winds parched the crops, and yet the record stood—never a complete crop failure in O'Brien County. Something was always produced, but not as much as usual, perhaps.

Just to switch the weather conditions somewhat the Bell of July 3, 1935 describes a heavy rain: "O'Brien County and especially the vicinity of Primghar has been struck twice within a week to a day by destructive rainstorms which wrought havoc to highways and crops.

"The rain which fell a week ago

Monday night and swept out the 28-foot concrete bridge on Highway 59 six and one-half miles south of Primghar, was estimated at six inches. The rain which began falling about 10:00 o'clock last Sunday night and continued throughout the night and until about noon Monday, is estimated at nine inches. Coming on top of the rain of a week earlier and with the ground still soaking from that downpour, and streams still high, this week's rain naturally wrought more damage. From reports received by this newspaper, the crest of the storm struck within a radius of a few miles of Primghar and extended westward Cherokee reported very little rain. It was not so heavy at Hartley, Sanborn, or Sheldon as here. Archer reports some six inches, and Paullina only a few inches, although the water from this neighborhood flooded Mill Creek and other streams.

"A trip from Primghar to Calumet via Gaza and from there to Paullina just before noon Tuesday and a trip to Sheldon via Sanborn Tuesday evening, shows water everywhere has receded. Barley and oats as a rule are uninjured and corn is showing great growth the past twenty-four hours. Only



Above picture shows the water overrunning the pavement of Highway 59, 6½ miles south of Primghar, after the rainstorm of 1935.



This is the county bridge (known as the Tastove bridge) three miles west of Primghar.

where water flooded fields in low places is small grain down. Some corn is covered with washed dirt in low places.

"The only bridge out on No. 59 is that one six and one-half miles south which was destroyed last week. The temporary road around it, built Sunday, and the tempor-

ary bridge are under water. Water has been over the pavement and gravel in scores of places, but outside of washed spots in gravel, grades are uninjured. Expected damage to crops and highway have not occurred to the extent expected Monday. O'Brien County is still one of the blessed garden spots of the world."



Above picture looks south from REA office corner, showing the "lake" formed by the heavy rain of 1949. Ortman Kaiser is standing in the office doorway.



Picture taken at Primghar looking southeast across the square shows that cars were hub-deep in the water from the heavy rain.

From Christmas of 1935 to February 1936 will long be remembered by the Primghar inhabitants as the coldest and snowiest of all time. Traffic and communications were completely stalled for days and partially so for weeks. Though there were railroads and automobiles, the only means of transportation that could be used were the horses with sleds and the human feet, because of the huge drifts of snow. Some farms were without communication with the outside world for three weeks. Trips were made to Primghar for groceries on foot and mail was delivered to a central farm and neighbors walked there to pick up the delivery. If a bobsled was used hauling supplies, the horses went cross country as in pioneer days, for the fences and roads were completely lost in the snow. Doctors could not even call on the sick. For thirty days the temperature did not go above zero.

Not as much snow was deposited in the winters of 1961 and 1962 and the deep cold was not of such long duration as that of 1936, but pictures show that snow was piled as high as the housetops. Some church services were cancelled for three Sundays in a row in 1962 because the farmers could not get to town. In 1954, March 12 and 13, during a cold and snowy spell when all communication was blocked an important service was given by our local Amateur Radio Operator, Herman Van Leeuwen. Though Herman station emergency messages were relayed. A few unusual ones were: He notified relatives in Worthington, Minnesota of the death of George Wells, pioneer resident of this community. He contacted a ham operator in Chicago, Illinois, who telephoned Mrs. Martin DeYoung of the sudden and critical illness of her father, Mr. Rudy Year, of Primghar. The two girls of Mr. and Mrs. John Sheridan were



1936 Snow—Lots of hard work went into removing the snow from Primghar sidewalks so "man's best friend" and man could get around easier.



Drifts piled high by nature and man in 1936.

visiting relatives at Britt, Iowa. Via Herman's radio a message was sent to them to get a bus to return home. Would you or could you imagine a train schedule being handled by a radio station? It was. From Spencer to Sheldon.

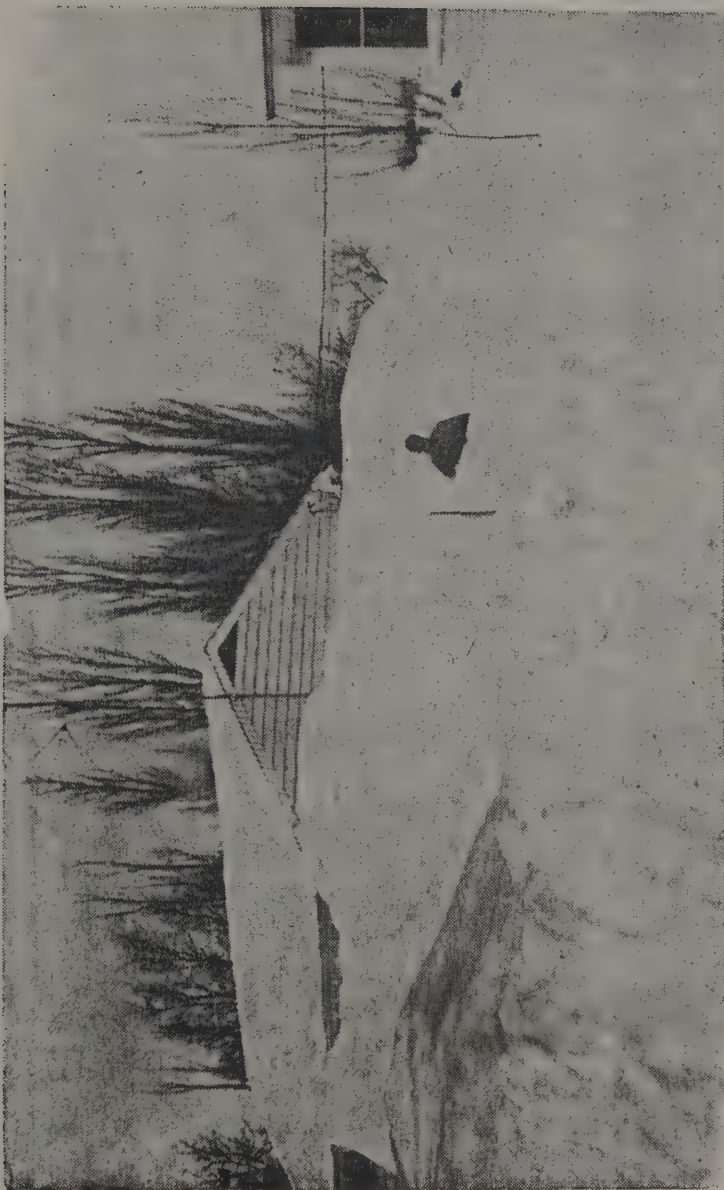
Herman was awarded a certificate from the State of Minnesota for his work in relaying messages during a flood disaster that spring. Mr. Van Leeuwen's government license station call letters are WOJBR.



The snow of 1962 brought new snow-removal equipment to northwest Iowa. Pictured above is a snow-blower clearing tons of the white stuff from Highway 59 outside of Primghar.



The storms of '62 piled snow to car-top level—made traveling impossible, and old type snow plows almost useless. Above picture taken north edge of town.



Not only did the snow pile to the car-tops—but also to some roof-tops. Here is Primghar's most publized snow drift—it rated a front page picture and story in the Des Moines Register's Sunday edition. The drift was located between the homes of Roger Smith and Laurens Blankers on 13th street.

The Present

Through the years one cannot say that the population of Primghar has grown very much, for the 1960 census shows 1130 inhabitants. But at least in activity the town has kept pace with the times.

A park was considered the best memorial to the boys who had served in the two World Wars and the town purchased the land at the southeast edge of town where it was laid out. The football field, the baseball diamond, and the shelter house are used through all but the coldest days of the year. It is also the home of the O'Brien County Fair and many new buildings that house the stock exhibits have been erected. In 1951 again the business men of the town showed their willingness to cooperate with the farmers by working after hours on two new fair buildings. In 1960 the band shell was moved from its location by the water tower to make room for the new postoffice and placed at the park. Summer band concerts are thoroughly enjoyed there.

A municipal light plant was voted, built under Mayor Jos. Halbach, and all paid for in the years from 1938 to 1960, when rates for service were lowered about 10%. The O'Brien County Farm Bureau built its new home on Highway 59 and extended its operations to several kinds of insurance and a farm service company which made more employment for Primghar citizens. The Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture worked through the Farm Bureau and the land grant college at Ames, now Iowa State University, to bring as much farming and business information to the community as possible. As a result of this work the O'Brien County Fair was established, starting first as a show for 4-H pro-

jects of O'Brien County boys and girls, but gradually growing into a full county fair. Through the efforts of the Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce natural gas was brought to Primghar by Northern Natural Gas Company in 1954, and a franchise was given to the Peoples Natural Gas Co. to build the distribution system. In 1958 the independent school district which had been only a little more than six sections in area was enlarged to take in the service area around the town and the school became the Primghar Community School. (For further information see the report of the Primghar Community School). A new postoffice was built at the west edge of the waterworks park in 1960. On the east side of the block is the new town well, about 700 feet deep, dug to overcome an actual shortage of water. The new sewage disposal system was the first in the state of the lagoon type.

Residents and business men of Primghar, early in 1959, donated \$3500 in cash and labor toward the Primghar Airport. To this \$3500 the State of Iowa added \$5000. By acquisition of the necessary funds in this manner, the town has an accredited airstrip at no additional cost to taxpayers of the town of Primghar. The new airstrip, located immediately west of the new sewage disposal plant, one-half mile east from town was dedicated on November 8, 1959. Over fifty planes landed that day for the Flight Breakfast. Iowa's Governor Herschel Loveless delivered the dedication address and cut the ribbon officially opening the airport for use. A hangar for several planes has since been added in 1963.

In the summer of 1962 a drive was made to secure funds to equip the new addition to the Ward Memorial Hospital. The actual



Shelter House at Memorial Park



Band Shell before it was moved to Memorial Park

need was for \$15,000, but more than that amount was subscribed and the dedication of the new addition was held in April of 1963.

At a Chamber of Commerce meeting in 1959 City Attorney H. H. Schultz showed the industry of Primghar as being made up of office work. Well may the town of Primghar be thankful that the efforts to separate the Court House from the center of the county failed. The Court House, the O'Brien County Agricultural Stabilization Office, the Soil Conservation District Office, the County Extension Office, the O'Brien

County Rural Electric Cooperative have made many jobs for our people. But we must not rest on these laurels. Many businesses are decentralizing their operations and are looking for locations in small towns. They look at the attitude of the townspeople when they decide where to locate. Let's be sure that we show the pride we have in our town, for as Carl Fritzsche said when he returned from Africa in June of 1963: "The beauty of the Primghar area is unbelievable; I have seen nothing equal to it in all my travels around the world."



Governor Cuts the Ribbon at Airstrip Dedication — Pictured left to right: Dr. B. C. Hagen; Governor Herschel Loveless; Mayor Roy Bennett and John Sheridan.

THUMBNAIL SKETCHES

In the history of any place or people there are always some who stand out as leaders. This is not to detract from the rest of the pioneers or settlers or from the present day inhabitants, but merely to show that some were and are typical of the spirit of the community. By their single contributions to the growth and development of Primghar we set them up in Thumbnail Sketches for your remembrance.

HAROLD LEROY AVERY, M.D.

Dr. Harold Leroy Avery was born at Muscatine, Iowa, July 1, 1880, and moved with his parents to Aurelia, Iowa, when a small boy. Here he completed his high school education and after graduation from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, University of Illinois in Chicago in 1905 he started the practice of medicine with his father (Drs. Avery and Avery) in Aurelia and later they practiced in Primghar, Iowa. He served as railroad surgeon for the Illinois Central railroad and O'Brien County Coroner. After the death of his father, Dr. James Wagner, a college classmate, then in Sutherland, came to Primghar and practiced with Dr. Avery for a short time.

In June 1914 he married Lydia Fenner of Independence, Iowa, now residing in Encino, California. Their only son, Norman Leroy, also makes his home in Encino.

Because of failing health, Dr. Roy, as he was known in the community, sold his practice to Dr. E. B. Getty in November 1935. Dr. Avery died in Pasadena, California, December 5, 1936.

Dr. Avery early realized that to those who attain success in the medical profession there must be not only given technical ability but a broad human sympathy and kindly helpfulness. These charac-

teristics helped him achieve success in his chosen profession.

—Mrs. F. R. Zinn

MILO AVERY, M. D.

Dr. Milo Avery was a scholarly man who devoted his whole life to the alleviation of suffering and was interested in everything which pertained to his chosen profession.

He was born October 27, 1853, on a farm near Corinth, Vermont, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Melinell M. Avery who came west after the Civil War, in 1865, and bought land near Montour, Tama County, Iowa, and later moved to Cherokee County, Iowa.

Doctor Avery was educated in the Montour High School and later entered Wilton Collegiate Institute. His medical education was received at the State University, Iowa City, Iowa, and at Rush Medical College at Chicago, Illinois, graduating from the latter institution in 1884. He commenced practice at Springdale, Iowa, and after three years moved to Aurelia in Cherokee County where he practiced for twenty-one years. He spent a short time in Canon City, Colorado, for his health, and in May 1907, located in Primghar, where with his son Dr. L. H. Avery (Drs. Avery and Avery) he practiced medicine until his death September 19, 1920.

October 8, 1878 he was married to Jennie Dudley of Muscatine.

Doctor and Mrs. Avery had two sons of their own and one adopted daughter, who was a niece of Mrs. Avery. The oldest son Dr. Harold Leroy, was a graduate of the College of Physicians and the University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois. Dr. George Avery, the second son, was a graduate of the dental course of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, practiced dentistry at Cherokee, Iowa. The daughter, Gladys Catherine Dudley, was a graduate of the State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa and taught in several high schools in the state. She is now Mrs. Ferdinand R. Zinn and resides in Primghar.

Dr. Avery was a member of the various medical societies and served several times as president of the O'Brien County Medical Society. He was railroad surgeon for the Illinois Central Railroad and served as County Coroner. He was a member of the Methodist Church and was interested in everything for the betterment of the community.

—Mrs. F. R. Zinn

J. J. BILLINGSLEY

J. J. Billingsley received his early education in Michigan and graduated from Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, with a Degree of Bachelor of Science. After teaching in Michigan and in eastern Iowa he came to Primghar in fall of 1892 to be superintendent of the city schools. Later he was superintendent at Sanborn and Paullina. In 1908 he was elected County Superintendent of O'Brien County Schools in which capacity he served for many years. He brought the schools of the county to a high state of efficiency and enjoyed the reputation of being one of the most scholarly men of northwest Iowa.

WILLIAM BRIGGS

William Briggs was born in England and emigrated with his parents to Lyons in Clinton County, Iowa, while yet an infant. When he was a young man he entered the employ of the First National Bank of Lyons and was promoted to the position of teller. In 1896 he came to Primghar and became the President of the Primghar Savings Bank. He engaged to a considerable extent in buying and selling lands. His industry and sound judgment combined with his economy contributed to the success of this man who started at the bottom of the ladder and worked up. He died in the home of his brother at Clinton, Iowa.

WILLIAM H. DOWNING

William H. Downing was born September 16, 1876 on a farm in Butler County, Iowa. He attended high school at Greene and graduated from law school at the State University of Iowa in 1900 with the Degree of Bachelor of Laws. In September 1900 he located in Primghar and built up a lucrative practice. He became widely known as a lawyer of ability and force.

RALPH HINMAN

Ralph Hinman was born October 15, 1867, at Albion, Iowa and came to O'Brien County with his parents in 1882 and settled in Baker Township. In 1893 he came to Primghar and entered the employ of George W. Schee who engaged in the banking and land business. The First National Bank of Primghar was chartered November 11, 1889, the oldest bank in town. Mr. Hinman became a stockholder and director and then cashier in 1904. In January 1913 he was elected President in which capacity he served until his death in December of 1952. He was active in business and com-



munity affairs always lending his influence and resources for the good of the community. Jerome H. Smith, his grandson, is connected with the First National Bank today.

LEO LAMPMAN



Leo Lampman was born in 1894. His father was a merchant in Sutherland and here he gained his early education. He graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Law in 1917. After serving in the armed forces during World War I he located in Primghar and entered a partnership with Attorney R. J. Locke. He was appointed Judge of the Twenty-first Judicial District Courts on September 1, 1954. He retired in 1962. A man of tireless energy, indomitable courage, he won and held the unqualified esteem of his fellow citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. Lampman now make their home in California.

RALPH E. LANGLEY



Ralph Langley was born in Nebraska on October 11, 1880 and came to Primghar in 1902. He worked at the O'Brien County Bell office for more than fifty years.

In 1903 he was chosen band master. In those days the members of the band paid their own expenses. George Schee hired the band to play at the last old Civil War Soldiers' Reunion held here.

They played for Liberty Loan Rallies in Sanborn and Hartley and at Sheldon when part of Company E was sent to Deming, New Mexico during World War I and for the draftees enroute to war. His band was the first to play in the new Band Shell in the Waterworks Park. (Band Shell now located in Memorial Park). They also played for Primghar's Old Settlers' Reunion in 1939. When the school began to teach instrumental and vocal music, the town band as a municipal project ceased to function.

For many years Mr. Langley assisted with the music at the Methodist Church both individually and as choir director.

Mr. and Mrs. Langley recently celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary and have lived in the same house on Maple Street for fifty-three years. Their five children all graduated from Primghar High School.

GEORGE MAST



George Mast came with his par-

ents from Davenport, Iowa to a farm in Center Township at an early age. As a young man George worked for Henry Williams and he was a familiar sight behind the counter engaging in the mercantile business for many years. He was the senior member of the firm Mast and Siemon when that business was located in the Hinz store building. George retired from the store and worked in the Rosecrans Grocery. He was ninety-five years old last August and enjoys visiting about old times.

MRS. GEORGE MAST



OTTO H. MONTZHEIMER

Otto H. Montzheimer was born February 16, 1867 at Sharpsburg, Pennsylvania. He was educated in Webster City and the law school of the University of Iowa. In March 1888 he was admitted to the practice of law and located in Primghar in May 1888. He was one of the most successful practitioners in the County and in Western Iowa. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and an



O. H. MONTZHEIMER

influential member of the Congregational Church in Primghar. With J. L. E. Peck of Primghar and Judge William Miller of Sibley he wrote the two volume History of O'Brien and Osceola Counties. He died December 30, 1943.

EMIL OLANDER

No historical sketch of Primghar would be complete without mention of Emil Olander, a man who had so much become a part of the community that young and old returning to their "native town" sought him for a brief visit to find out the happenings since they were last here. He was affectionately known as "Emil" by his friends and neighbors.

Emil, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Olander, was born on a pioneer farm in Minnehaha County, South Dakota, on May 4th, 1881. He attended country school, Sioux Falls College, South Dakota, and from there went to Highland Park College, Des Moines, Iowa, where he received his Degree in Pharmacy.

He was employed as a Pharmacist for Brown Drug Company of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for Rust Drug Store of Primghar, Iowa, and for Klaster and Duncan of Sioux City, Iowa. In 1906 he purchased the Rust Drug Store here in Primghar. In March 1943 the drug store was completely damaged by fire but was rebuilt, and sold.

Mr. Olander retired from the drug business after serving more than fifty years as a registered pharmacist. After his retirement much of his time was spent managing his farms and traveling extensively with his wife, the former Nellie Ellison of Des Moines, Iowa, whom he married in June 1910.

He was a member of the First Congregational Church of Primghar and served as a Trustee and Deacon over a period of years. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and served as Master of Rising Star Lodge A. F. and A. M. and also as Worthy Patron of Primghar Chapter No. 241 Order of the Eastern Star. He was also a member of the Royal Arch Masons, and Knights Templars and many other fraternal organizations. Emil was active in the Red Cross having served as local and county chairman and he was a long-time member of the Chamber of Commerce.

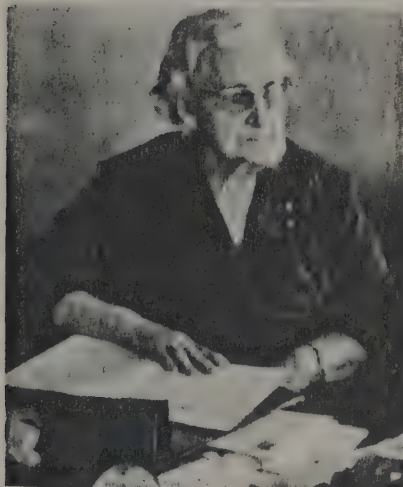
Emil gave liberally of his means to the church, the community and various charitable organizations. His choice charity was the Shriners Crippled Children's Hospital in Minneapolis. Many a Primghar "kid", some now grown, has happy memories of an eventful day in Sioux City attending the Shrine Circus made possible by the thoughtfulness of Mr. Olander. He was always interested in the growth and betterment of Primghar.

Mr. Olander succumbed to a heart attack and was laid to rest in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Primghar, Iowa, August 24, 1958.

—Mrs. F. R. Zinn

Information given by Mrs. Emil Olander.

MRS. D. C. PECK



Mrs. D. C. Peck has lived in Primghar fifty-six years. The family moved here from Minnesota and Mr. Peck was in the elevator and coal business. In 1913 they purchased the telephone exchange from C. W. Smith. They owned and operated the business with Mrs. Peck as manager, for fifty years. It was sold to the General Telephone and Electronic Company which took possession and management on April 1, 1963.

HENRY RERICK

Henry Rerick was a prominent abstractor and business man of O'Brien County. He came to Primghar in 1878 and was engaged in the abstract and banking business for the next several years. He was elected O'Brien County Treasurer, taking office January 1, 1890 and serving in that capacity for six years. After retirement from that office he organized an abstract

and loan business under the firm name of Boyer Abstract Company, later Rerick Abstract Company. Mr. Rerick was very successful in his career. Gordon Rosecrans, a grandson, is president of the Rerick Abstract Company today. Henry Rerick died in 1930.

JAMES A. WAGNER, M. D.

James A. Wagner, M. D. was born at Spillville, Iowa, January 21, 1881. He spent his boyhood on a farm near Ossian, Iowa, and received high school training at Champion Boarding School in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Following this he entered training at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and graduated from the Medical School of the University of Illinois in 1905.

Shortly after graduation Dr. Wagner located in Granville, Iowa, where he practiced for ten years. Following a graduate course in Chicago he returned to O'Brien County and set up practice in Sutherland, and there he married Iva O'Donnell. In 1922 Dr. and Mrs. Wagner moved to Primghar where they made their home and raised five children.

Dr. Wagner was a member of the American Medical Association, Northwest Iowa Medical Association and Omaha Midwest Clinical Society. He was local surgeon for the Illinois Central Railroad Company, County Coroner, and served on the Selective Service Board of O'Brien County for World War II. He was president of the Primghar School Board for many years. He was an active member of the Catholic Church and a member of Catholic Foresters of America.

Besides his many professional activities he gave freely of his time to community service and he enjoyed a place of high esteem among his fellowmen. At the O'Brien County Fair in August of 1954 Dr. Wagner was presented a



Dr. Wagner honored at O'Brien County Fair—August 1954.

watch by Mayor Joe Halbach in appreciation of his faithful service as a physician in the community.

Following his retirement in 1954 Dr. Wagner moved to Omaha, Nebraska. He was killed in a car-train accident southeast of Primghar on October 28, 1954.

THE WILLIAMS BROTHERS

The Williams Brothers, Henry Nate and Robert, came from Hartley in the 1890's and were engaged in the mercantile business on the west side of the square for years. They contributed materially to the economic growth of Primghar, serving the needs of the community for many years and for many miles around the county.

The following is a poem contributed by Mrs. Walter Wittrock which was written by her mother, Mrs. Robert Mattice:

FROST ON THE SPRUCE

The trees at the edge of my garden,

With their intricate tracery of leaves,

Today are all white and shimmering,

Towering up over the eaves.

Like a bride adorned for her wedding

With a veil of shining lace

As she stands and waits for her bridegroom

With his solemn and measured pace.

CHAPTER V – Churches

ONE OF OUR MOST CHERISHED FREEDOMS IS
THE RIGHT TO WORSHIP AS WE PLEASE

The town of Primghar is conscious of Spiritual values. The churches are growing.

It has been said that some came to this continent seeking gold; but our ancestors came to America seeking God.

AMERICAN REFORMED CHURCH



by—MRS. MITCH VANDER TUIG

The American Reformed Church of Primghar, Iowa began its history as a mission station in the spring session of the Classis East Sioux in the year 1936. A student pastor was appointed for the summer to work the field. Russell Redeker then in the middle year in the seminary was appointed to the field and conducted his first service in the Primghar mission June 7, 1936, in the church building which is now owned by the congregation, which

at that time belonged to the denomination known as the Church of Christ. A call was given to student Redeker on December 16, 1936. This call was accepted, to take effect after graduation in the spring. The mission was organized into a church on May 3, 1937. Rev. Redeker was in the field July 7, 1937.

There were ten families enrolled as charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Hubert DeRidder, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Rowerdink, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Vander Tuig, Mr. and Mrs.

Gerrit Oldenkamp, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Van Wechel, Mr. and Mrs. Dick E. Ten Clay, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Van Heuvelen, Mr. and Mrs. Joe De Jong, Mr. and Mrs. John Brink.

From these members, the following were chosen to serve as consistory members: John Brink, Elder; Joe De Jong, Elder; Pete Vander Tuig, Deacon; Ben Van Heuvelen, Deacon.

In June of 1960 Rev. A. Aardsma, a graduate of Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan, his wife and three children came to Primghar and is the present pastor.

The church has an enrollment of fifty-seven families. Church services are held both Sunday morning and Sunday evening.



The Ladies Aid Society of the church was organized November 18, 1937. This picture was taken in 1941. Mrs. Herman Van Leeuwen, Mrs. Clarence Haack, Mrs. Peter Vander Tuig and Mrs. Vera Stewart are not pictured.

Rev. Redeker left Primghar January 1942 and is now Secretary to the Board of North American Missions with offices in New York.

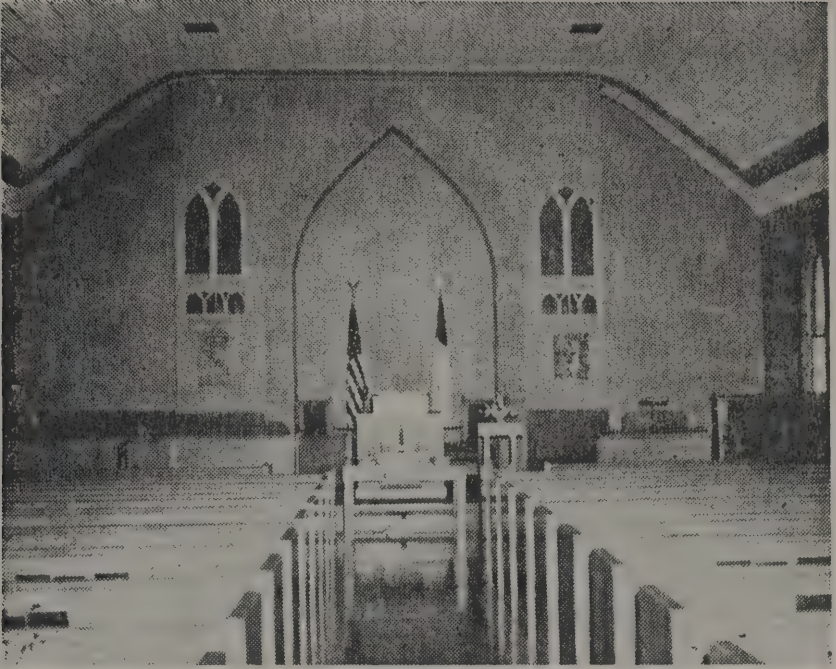
Since then the church has been served by the following ministers: Rev. William Bos, July 1942-September 1943; Rev. G. Vander Woude, (supply minister) October 1943; Student Arthur Grull, summer of 1944; Rev. H. Rozendaal, May 1945-February 1953; Rev. Donald Weemhoff, November 1953-May 1959.

R. C. Y. F. (Reformed Church Youth Fellowship) meets every Sunday night.

Guild for Christian Service meets twice a month.

Men's Brotherhood meets every Tuesday night during the winter months.

The church supports two missionaries, Rev. and Mrs. Reuben Ten Haken to the Omaha Indians, Macey, Nebraska. Miss Wilma Maasen to the United Church of South India.



Inside view of the American Reformed Church.

There are also two sons of the church in the ministry: Rev. Gerald Heemstra, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Heemstra, is serving the Carmel Reformed Church of Rock Valley, Iowa. Rev. James Rozendaal, son of Rev. and Mrs. Herman Rozendaal, is serving the First Reformed Church of Maple Lake, Minnesota.

In 1962 the church celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary and is looking forward to many more years of service to our Lord in the Primghar Community.



Rev. A. H. Aardsma

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CATHOLIC CHURCH



by—MRS. ROBERT MEYLOR

The first mass for Catholics of Primghar and surrounding area was said in 1887 by Rev. Father Timothy Sullivan, who served the Church at Sheldon. Mass was offered in the Court House, from 1890-1893. Father McCormick of Sheldon offered mass occasionally in the sheriff's office and sometimes in a room over the Gross and Herbst Store.

In 1900 the Catholics bought a little frame church from the Methodists; moved it to a lot of their own; repaired and furnished it at an expenditure of \$1,200. This lot is now owned by W. O. Hopkins, a block south of the present Catholic edifice. There were twelve Catholic families in the area. Among them were John Manning and his sister; John and Frank Cassidy; the Mrs. McFarland family; Joseph

Halbach Sr.; Con Harrington; Frank Griffin; Jim Daniels; and a Carroll family.

In 1912, the parish was officially incorporated by the Bishop of Sioux City, Bishop Garrigan. By the articles of incorporation its name is St. Anthony of Padua.

As a mission from Sanborn until 1924, St. Anthony's parish was attended by the following priests: Reverend Fathers James McCormick, F. LeBlond, Thomas Coffey, L. J. Cooper, C. P. Conway, and J. J. Dalhoff.

In 1924, St. Anthony of Padua became affiliated with the Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Sutherland and was served by Rev. Fathers M. C. Wendl, A. A. Bausch, Henry F. Pick, J. W. Cullen, Jerome Koenig and Dean P. Walker.

In 1928, the Primghar parish purchased a block of property from the Wm. Schee estate. Under the direction of Rev. Father A. A. Bausch, excavation began for a basement church. Trustees at this time were Herbert Arenz and Frank Tastove.

The original church was dismantled and the lots sold. Mass was offered in the basement church for twenty-five years. In the spring of 1953 the original basement was enlarged, and on July 1, 1953 the impressive ceremony of the blessing and laying of the cornerstone was held.

Rev. Father J. W. Cullen was pastor and Anthony Ney and John Sheridan were trustees during the planning and building of the new \$65,000 structure. The present church has a seating capacity of 256 and room for an additional 50 in the choir balcony. A mother's room is to the right of the vestibule and the baptistry to the left. This new super structure was dedicated by the Most Reverend Joseph M. Mueller, D. D. of Sioux City at formal ceremonies at 10:00 a.m. on April 21, 1954. Deacons of honor were former pastors: Rev. Father Henry Pick, and Rev. Father J. J. Dalhoff. Rev. Father Dean Walker (at that time of Sioux City) was master of ceremonies, and Rev. Father Leo Berger of St. Andrew's Church at Sibley preached the sermon.

During the construction, from

June 1953 to March 1954, Catholics from Primghar drove to Sutherland to attend Mass.

The first marriage in the new church was that of Beverly Ann Smith and Robert J. Meylor on June 16, 1954, by Rev. Father Nooney.



Father Dean Walker

In 1955, Rev. Father Jerome Koenig served St. Anthony's parish for over a year, followed by Rev. Father Dean Walker, the pastor at the present time, who serves the Sacred Heart Church of Sutherland and the mission parish, St. Anthony of Padua in Primghar.

CHURCH OF CHRIST



by—MRS. GEO. HICKS
and
MRS. NEIL BONDERMAN

At this date, in the year 1963, the present Church of Christ in Primghar holds the possible distinction of being the town's youngest church, having had its origin in the year 1950. It was started through the efforts of Alvin Nicholson who was at that time the minister of the Church of Christ in Sutherland. Its weekly meetings were conducted in two different homes, whose few members constituted the congregation. After some months the work was taken over by George Harrison, the replacement minister for Mr. Nicholson who had departed for the mission field in Africa. As the numbers increased, space was obtained in the basement of the Hub Hotel, and soon after a meeting was held for organizational purposes at which time elders and trustees were appointed. In 1954 Elmer Stofferan began his ministry with the church and is the present minister having completed nine years in that capacity. During the intervening years much progress was made. In 1956 ground was purchas-

ed two blocks west of the northwest corner of the square and the present church building was erected at that site. Occupancy was taken in the spring of 1957 with dedication services being held in October of that year. By-laws were drawn up and a charter granted. In December of 1961 a mortgage burning ceremony was held and at this date the church is debt free.



Elmer Stofferan, Minister

The Church Doctrine

The church holds to the persuasion that it is grounded on the principles set forth in the New Testament for the establishment of Christ's Church, being confident that there should be no other name used other than that of Christ. It is entirely independent of any governing bodies or organizations. It believes in and practices only

one baptism, that of complete immersion, following penitent confession of faith. It maintains a practice of weekly observance of the Lord's Supper. It holds no distinction between clergy and laity, holding to the equality of all consecrated believers working together for the unity and salvation under the authority of New Testament scripture, Jesus Christ, the head of the body, the church.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



by—MRS. C. O. FISCH,
CHURCH CLERK

Ninety-one years ago, in 1872, a Congregational pastor, the Rev. John H. Covey, assisted by Mrs. Lucy Slack, conducted Sunday School services east of Primghar. Rev. Covey built a church in Grant township in 1874. What is known as the Covey church building is still a landmark there.

This year of 1963 is also our 75th anniversary, for our church in Primghar was organized on March 2nd, 1888, when eight Congregationalists met in the home of Rice Reader. In the same month a council of churches was called. This group met in "Court House Hall," where the formal organization was perfected. A Sunday School was organized at once, with Rice Reader as the first superintendent. He served in that capacity for eleven years. Records show that Mr. Reader was really devoted to his church, helping it

in every way, as long as he lived in Primghar. The early years were ones of struggle. The church would not have survived without the help of the Home Missionary Society, which sent student pastors, state Sunday School workers, and financial aid until 1895 when it became entirely self-supporting.

In 1889 lots now occupied by the church were purchased, and a plain barn-like structure was built on a substantial foundation of Sioux Falls granite. This building was 28 ft. by 46 ft. with a 19 ft. ceiling height in center of church. This original audience room has not been materially changed with the later alterations and rebuilding. When this building was dedicated on July 27, 1890, the record says . . . "The Methodist Brethern very generously closed their service and attended in a body, a true spirit of Christianity prevailing . . ."

A parsonage was built south of

the church, in 1894. Later, this building was sold, moved to the lot east, and the present parsonage was built north of the church. As the congregation grew, wings were added to north and south of the church building, with a vestibule and spire at the northwest corner. This spire was destroyed and the building damaged by a cyclone in 1902. A shorter wider tower was built and a bell placed in the belfry.



First Congregational Church

Until 1908, the women of the church had held their meetings in homes of the members. That year a complete basement was built, and Pilgrim Hall was dedicated. Now the days of cleaning old buildings and basements in which to hold suppers were over.

Records show that two previous anniversaries have been celebrated. The twentieth, during the Rev. L. M. Pierce's pastorate, and the fiftieth in 1938, while the Rev. Ralph Beebe was pastor. With increased enrollment in our Sunday School, this church, like most other churches and public schools, needed more classrooms. In 1960-61 an educational unit was built on the south side of the church. Bequests left to the church by former members, and a great deal

of donated labor, enabled us to have this addition ready for dedication on September 24th, 1961, during the pastorate of Rev. George Fairbanks.

This history has dealt chiefly with the physical aspects of the Congregational church in Primghar. No one could study the old records of baptisms, Sunday School, mission work at home and abroad, the dedicated pastors who have served us, without realizing the great spiritual value of such an institution, during three-quarters of a century. When Joseph N. Welch, a famous native son, spoke in our church, shortly before his death, he said . . . "Nothing more wonderful could happen to a boy or girl than to be born and raised in a town like Primghar." Being "raised" in Primghar would surely mean attending school and church school here. We are proud of the religious education offered by our church and church school.

Nationally, the Congregational church has been a leader in the ecumenical movement. As long ago as 1931 a union of the National Council of Congregational Churches was affected with the General Convention of the Christian Church. At that time our official name became The Congregational-Christian Church. More recently, in 1957, our Congregational-Christian Church leaders ratified a merger with the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The official name for these churches (and ours in Primghar) is now "the United Church of Christ". Since local churches are not required to change names, most of us will probably continue to think of ours as the Congregational church.

Pastors who have served our church since its beginning are: N. L. Burton, D. C. Strong, T. G. Langdale, J. C. Stoddard, D. C. Skinner, James Parsons, Charles

L. French, H. H. Burch, F. C. Lewis, C. H. Gilmore, L. M. Pierce, B. J. Rhodes, W. M. Swann, Grant B. Wilder, L. M. Pierce, W. H. Nye, A. W. Miles, H. L. Michael, James Alcock, Ralph J. Beebe, Newton Klooze, Marvin Williams, A. Morris Lotte, A. J. Ramberg, Winthrop Mager, George W. Fairbanks, James Zottnick.

In a recent sermon our pastor, Dr. Zottnick, said something like this . . . "If any church ever feels so proud of its past that it is willing to rest on past records, that church faces spiritual death; we must accept the challenge of the future . . ." In accepting this challenge, we accept a "burden of concern" for our fellowman. May ours be a learning and witnessing church.



Dr. James Zottnick

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



by—MRS. OSCAR FJELD

The first service of Grace Lutheran Congregation was held June 20, 1937 at the Legion Hall in Primghar with 18 attending. The Rev. Donald G. Lee was pastor. In August Sunday School was started with 17 pupils. Walter Krumm was elected Superintendent. In October confirmation instruction began. Class members were: Velma (Benner) Flick, Thelma (Peterson) Wulf, Alice and Bernette Skaar, and Deloris (Winkelman) Brown.

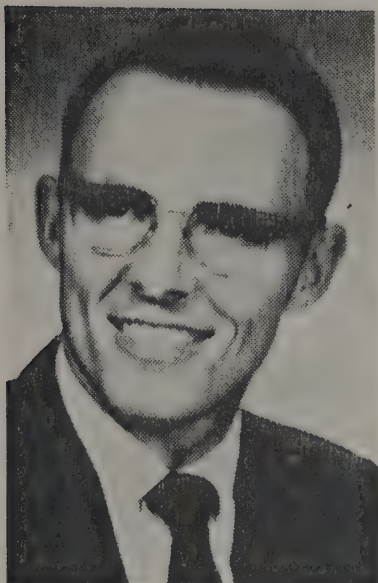
The congregation was organized on December 2, 1937, when the constitution was presented and adopted. The charter membership list of 19 is as follows: Mrs. Earl Benner, Mr. and Mrs. Rasmus Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Davis, Donald and Ralph Davis, Dorothy Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Krumm, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Larson, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Leng, Mr. and Mrs. Marius Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Skaar, and Mrs. Roy Winkelman. Serving as the congrega-

tion's first president, was Walter Krumm.

On January 21, 1938, the Ladies Aid was organized with 11 members present. Mrs. Howard Davis was the first president. This auxiliary was later known as the Guild, and now, as the ALCW (American Lutheran Church Women).

During 1938 land was purchased and the Center Township Lutheran Church was bought and moved to the present location. At the initial service, held December 4, in the basement of this building, the first class was confirmed. The first baby baptized was Donald Davis, Jr. By Pentecost Sunday, 1939, remodeling was completed and Grace Lutheran Church was dedicated.

It was part of a two-point parish until 1949. Pastors, being shared with the mother church, Siloam of Paullina, and living there were: The Rev. Donald G. Lee (1937-1940); The Rev. Andrew M. Hegre, (1940-1943); The Rev. Eugene Hol-



Pastor Robert W. Lea

land (1944-1946); and The Rev. Howard M. Lybeck (1946-1948). At this time the present parsonage was purchased and The Rev. Rolf Borg-Breen became the first full time pastor (1949-1953). He was followed by The Rev. Carl Grindberg (1953-1958). The Rev. Robert W. Lea has been pastor since June 1958.

Music lovers and musical ability abound among the members. A fund was started in memory of one who lost his life in World War II. In October 1950, the goal was reached and the Marvin Geerdes Memorial Organ was dedicated. It is worthy to note that Mrs. Floyd McQueen has been both capable and willing at the piano and organ, when needed, since the congregation was started. Numerous others have served the Lord well musically while they worshipped in Grace Lutheran.



The old Grace Lutheran Church.

In May, 1959, the Ordination into the ministry of a son of the congregation took place in the home church. He is Pastor Roger Fjeld, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Fjeld, now serving a mission congregation in Sedalia, Missouri.

The rapid growth of Grace Lutheran made evident the need for a new house of worship and educational facilities. On January 4, 1955, the Building Committee was elected as follows: Don Hagen, chairman; Walter Krumm, Clifford Larson, Nick Peterson, Joe Leng, Leo Reimann, Donald Johannsen and Pastor Lea. The first structure was razed and replaced by a beautiful \$125,000 church with a total seating capacity of 450. Groundbreaking took place April 24, 1960. Dedication Day was June 18, 1961, with most of the

former pastors present. Don Larson served as the president at this time. Others serving on the council were Leon Albertson, Arley Doehla, Charles Duhrkopf, Richard Evenson, Oscar Fjeld, Arlo Hagen, Vernon Hibbing, Dale Jenkinson, Donald Johannsen, Arnold Leng, Art Meyer, Carl Silberstein, and Harold Skaar. Robert McCauley was the Building Fund Treasurer.

The 75th Anniversary Year of Pringhar coincides with the 25th of Grace Lutheran. This milestone was observed February 10, 1963, with Pastor Roger Fjeld as guest speaker. The afternoon was devoted to an informal review of highlights during this quarter century. The current membership is 381 and Sunday School enrollment is 110.

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH



by—MRS. F. R. ZINN

References: Church Records, Past and Present of O'Brien and Osceola Counties, vol. I and vol. II, J. L. E. Peck, O. H. Montzheimer, Wm. J. Miller; O'Brien County History, Perkins.

Rev. Lothian came to this Northwest Iowa circuit in 1872 and worked in the central part of O'Brien County. He preached the first sermon in Primghar and in 1874 a parsonage was built on the site where the Methodist parsonage now stands.

The grasshoppers came in 1876-77-78 destroying grain fields and gardens to such an extent that many homesteaders became discouraged and left so the idea of a church was given up, but the first Methodist Sunday School was organized in 1874 by Daniel Byson who became the first superintendent and served for twenty years. Everand McDowell is the present Superintendent.

Lots for church purposes were donated by Clark Green and James Roberts (the G. and R. in Primghar).

In 1880, during the pastorate of Rev. W. H. Drake (1878-80), the first church building was erected at a cost of \$1,100.00. Presiding Elder ("Parson") Lozier dedicated the church in October 1879. It was the first church in Primghar. In 1882 under the pastorate of Rev. S. C. Bascom, a cyclone completely destroyed the church and worship services were again held in the school house.

Under the pastorate of Rev. A. King (1887-88), a second church was erected at the cost of \$1,400.00. Rev. Lent was pastor for two years, then Rev. A. A. Marcy and a second parsonage was built in 1890 located on the lot now occupied by the Vollink Residence. Then Rev. R. K. Calloway was sent and the appointments were Archer and Center—now Baker. Rev. H. L. Shoemaker and Rev. E. G. Kieth each served the church for two years. This little church was sold to the Catholics and moved to the south part of town. In 1900 the present church was built at a cost of \$7,437.00. Rev. C. M. Phoenix was pastor at that time. It was dedicated September 10, 1900 by Dr. Ives of New York. This structure has been remodeled

twice. The first remodeling was in 1948 during the pastorate of Rev. G. H. Moore at a cost of just less than \$15,000.00. Much of the money and equipment was donated and much of the work was done by the members of the church. At this time the kitchen was completely remodeled and new equipment added, the entrance was enclosed and the tower and weather vane removed. Extensive changes were made in the main part of the church. John Greenlee, a prominent Primghar merchant, started the ball rolling by donating \$1,000.00 toward the remodeling. Many others were generous and gave substantial amounts.



Old Methodist Church

In 1960-61 the Sunday School rooms were added at a cost of \$12,000.00. The furnace, light fixtures and much of the equipment were donated as well as much of the labor. Rev. C. W. Kimbrell was pastor at this time.

The present parsonage north of the church was built when Rev. Arthur Hopkinson served this charge.

The W. S. C. S. (Women's Society of Christian Service) is presided over by Mrs. James Metcalf and meets once a month in place



Rev. Charles W. Kimbrell

of the old General Aid Society. They raise money and in various ways carry out the work of the church. The Women's Society is divided into four circles (Esther, Martha, Sarah and the Evening Circle) which meet once a month and each circle raises money for the W. S. C. S.

The work of the Church is further carried out by the Willing Workers and the King's Daughters who pack boxes for shut-ins at Christmas time and otherwise carry on the church work. Mrs. Robert Aronson is president of the Willing Workers and Mrs. A. P. Anderson president of King's Daughters.

No record of this church would be complete, without the names of the men who have served it in addition to those previously mentioned: Rev. C. M. Phoenix, Rev. W. O. Tompkins, Rev. F. F. Case, Rev. C. S. Burnett, Rev. Thomas Andrews, Rev. T. S. Bassett, Rev. Thomas Ingham (served as missionary to India), Rev. D. G. Empey, Rev. Arthur Hopkinson, Rev. Thomas Batho, Rev. Walter Breaux, Rev. M. D. Bush, Rev. George Osborne, Rev. Claude McMillan, Rev. F. F. Robinson, Rev. J. F. Moore, Rev. Forest Flowers, Rev. Paul Clements, Rev. Howard Mercer, Rev. Charles W. Kimbrell (1963).

CHAPTER VI – Organizations

The citizens of Primghar owe a debt of gratitude for the interest and cultural growth exemplified by folks who have promoted and contributed to and for the good of community life.

Organizations definitely have their place in a community. They educate their members on civic and world affairs, and through projects undertaken, promote fellowship on a high plane. If they follow their objects and use vision, they will remain an integral part of community life.

We are proud of the many and varied organizations that are found in our town of Primghar.

American Legion Auxiliary

by—MRS. ERNEST REMBE

The Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion of Chateau Thierry Post No. 36 at Primghar, Iowa, was organized in the spring of 1919 at a meeting held in the assembly room of the Court House, conducted by Leo Lampman. The following were charter members, reading as they were signed: Jennie Rembe, Lettie Tjossem, Nettie Smith, Madaline Wright, Anna B. Geister, Marie Geister, Nancy Potter, Bernice Johnston, Ella Johnston, Mattie Rooney, Edith Carlson, Val Niewendorf, Dora Metcalf, Alice Fritzsche, Bertha Fritzsche, and Sarah Parry.

At our next meeting more names were added to the list.

Our Charter was not issued until January 22, 1921. The first record books were lost so we have only records starting with October, 1921. The first year or two we met at the homes of members and then in the year of 1921 the Legion secured the room over Noe's Cafe and that was our hall until the bakery decided to fix that room as living quarters. We then moved over Bourke's Hardware Store and remained there until a fire in 1923

which forced us to find other living rooms. After meeting at the homes for some time we took the room under the First National Bank and fixed it up. In time that seemed too small, so again we moved locating over the Nye Building on the north side of the square and there we remained until our boys bought the present building and fixed it up.

Our members receiving the 25 year pins of service to the Unit are. Jennie Rembe, first president 1919; Maude Halbach, president 1922; Iva Wagner, president 1923; Loretta Halbach, president 1924; Mary Waggoner, president 1925; Marvel Vollink, president 1931; Lottie Parry, president 1927; Pauline Steffens, president 1938-1939 (Gold Star Mother); Cora DeVries, joined 1928; and Lillian Lake.

In 1963 we have 58 members. We have an assigned child that we buy clothes for and we also send gifts to the veterans' hospital and children's hospital.

American Legion Chateau Thierry Post No. 36

by—GEO. PEDERSEN
POST HISTORIAN

The Charter for Chateau Thierry Post No. 36 of the American Legion, Primghar, Iowa, was issued June 16, 1919, with the following shown as charter members:

H. C. Metcalf, R. R. Williams, Lewis O. Keene, E. R. Waggoner, E. M. Potter, Floyd Albert, Leslie M. White, Parry D. Long, Willie E. Jons, William Luhrs, Eli D. Parry, Arthur Jons, LeRoy O. Geister, Alfred Chambers, Jeff C. Lago, F. M. Haibach, Ernest V. Rembe, Henry J. Meier, J. C. Landess, Elmer R. Lake, Vincent J. Cassidy, Arthur Hopkinson, Anton Strandberg, Sigvart Neig, Rex E. Yockey.

At the end of World War I, the Red Cross Funds of Primghar, upon reconsideration by the local Red Cross Workers, were found to have been intended solely for home benefit and wrongly credited to the National Organization. The funds were used to give a large banquet in the Hub Hotel

for returned Veterans and their wives. It was held on Memorial Day, May 30, 1919 and was the occasion for the organization of the American Legion Post Chateau Thierry No. 36 and its Auxiliary.

From the starting date of May 30, 1919 in the dining room of the Hub Hotel, the early history of Chateau Thierry Post No. 36 and its Auxiliary has been one of persistent and consistent struggles to acquire a Post building and to attain in the community of Primghar stations of respect and reliability in community life and affairs.

Without a meeting place and without funds the newly formed Legion and Auxiliary found a friendly County Auditor and Board of Supervisors who permitted periodical meetings in the Ladies' Lounge and Men's Smoking Rooms of the court house. During this period the ladies also met at the homes of the different members.

Endowed with a desire for permanent quarters but seriously handicapped financially, the Post petitioned for the holding of a special election to erect in Primghar a Memorial Hall in an attempt to secure an available Coun-



Home of Primghar American Legion

ty Fund of \$2500.00. The election was held and was lost by a vote of ten to one—the total affirmative votes being exactly equal to the number of members of Legion and Auxiliary. The \$2500 we could have secured was then given to Sanborn and used to erect a Soldiers Monument in the Sanborn Municipal Park. Chateau Thierry seemed then to be destined to exist without quarters of its own.

There was at this time a bakery which occupied the location now housing the State Liquor Store. The rooms overhead were rented after the loss of the Memorial Hall election and the place was furnished with enough chairs, tables and entertainment facilities to make meeting and party rooms for the Legion and the Auxiliary. Many lovely parties were held there and both organizations started to grow. However, the hard luck still pursued. A change in the ownership of the bakery building forced the Legion and Auxiliary to think again about other quarters.

There was at the time, on the place now occupied by the First National Bank, a two-story brick building housing in the lower floor the hardware firm of Bourke and Cassidy and having in the upper story the living quarters of the Tom Mason family. The Mason family vacated the rooms and the Post and Auxiliary moved into the upper rooms of the building. The furnishings were moved there and other furnishings added, together with rifles and ammunitions secured from the War Department for funeral purposes.

The first three funerals held by the Legion were those of Jessie Graham in 1919 and Henry Horstmann and Claus Steffen in 1920.

In the early morning hours of a day several months later the brick building was completely destroyed

by fire, without any chance to save the furnishings, guns, nor the beautiful Legion Post Colors. A touch of irony enters here. Legionnaire Eli Parry, as Adjutant, had taken the Post records home for safe keeping. He deemed that they would be safer in the Legion quarters and had taken them back there for safe keeping just before the fire. They too were lost. Chateau Thierry and its Auxiliary were again back to the beginning—no home, no property, no funds, no Colors, no rifles, no available meeting place and no prospects.

The Legion and Auxiliary now with good cause felt that the Fates were against them, that they were destined for oblivion. The officers of the First National Bank graciously offered, free of rent, to them the basement room of the old bank building. The offer was gladly accepted. Although the quarters were small, they helped keep alive the desire for a Post Home and here the Legion and Auxiliary stayed until they were able to secure the rooms over the building owned by the hardware firm of Nye & Son. These rooms now are over the present Hap's Lunch on the north side of the public square. These rooms proved to be the last rented ones and they were occupied until 1936.

The lucky break finally came. The Primghar School District had erected on the west side of the school building a small two-roomed wooden school building for kindergarten and first grade. In the year 1936 the district voted to erect the new addition for high school and gymnasium and offered the small wooden school building at public auction. Chateau Thierry was the only bidder at the auction. Other prospective bidders were most mysteriously persuaded, and lovingly advised to remain absent. At least no other bidders appear-

ed. The building was sold to the Post and moved to its present location for remodeling.

Even the absurdly low bid of \$800.00 by the Post was difficult to raise. The amount of the bid at the auction did not exist in any way as Legion funds. In order to pay this bid and remodeling costs the members contributed \$100.00 shares taking as security therefor a mortgage on the building after the remodeling had been completed. As the funds from various sources became available the mortgage was reduced \$100 at a time, the members drawing lots to see who should be paid next. Eventually the last \$100 payment was made and the mortgage was released and burned in an evening's celebration of the event. The building was then debt free and so remains to this time. Without funds or wealthy friends there has existed many years of work, plans, struggles and financial figuring to become debt free.

The basement was dug with donated labor; the building remodeled, walks built, painting done, flag pole erected, lawn leveled and seeded. The fireplace in the building is emblematical of the many loving hands that have been instrumental throughout the years in the erection of the Legion and Auxiliary home. It contains donated seashells, stones, petrified woods and one old hand grenade, which everyone hopes is a dud or has been disarmed, but about which no one seems to know.

The land upon which the building rests was the gift of the town which received it as a gift from the George Schee family as original owners. It was given for library purposes but never used as such.

To help pay for the building it has been from time to time rented to the Farm Bureau, the newly

started Lutheran Church, party groups, dancing clubs, business meetings, stag parties, community meals, baked goods sales, raffles, and the building has always been considered available for all Civic and Patriotic groups and functions. The Legion and Auxiliary have sponsored Town Basketball, Junior League Baseball, Home Talent Plays and Minstrels, Pioneer celebrations and one large two hour parade in which all the towns of the county took part, and has bought and donated to the library one of its large electric lighted reading tables. Legionnaire F. C. Bordewick for years has served on the County's Soldier Relief Commission and Legionnaire Eli Parry was on the Selective Service Board. Several Legionnaires during World War II served on the County Civil Defense Commission.

It is a queer thing. When the time finally arrived that the building was debt free, no longer did there seem to be an incentive, and the interest in the Legion and Auxiliary affairs waned. The Veterans of World War I and their ladies, living and those now dead, have worked hard and long, and most faithfully to create the present Post Quarters. It hasn't been easy, but it has been interesting and it has created memories of wonderful times together.

The Post Quarters have now been passed on to the younger Veterans of World War II and their ladies, free of debt, free of worries, without necessity for anything else but to preserve and maintain.

We oldsters are tired. We want to rest. We pass the care of it all on to you of younger blood with the sincere prayers that you will appreciate it all, be thankful for it, and will cherish and defend it and the high principles of citizenship for which it stands.

Improvements have been made to the building from time to time such as celotex block ceiling and fluorescent lighting in the basement, converting the furnace from coal to natural gas; a new roof was put on in 1959. The building has been painted both inside and out as needed, the most recent times being the painting of the outside of the building and the inside walls on the main level in 1961 and the inside basement walls in 1962. During the summer of 1962 the outside open basement stairway was enclosed and painted, this being a decided improvement, as now it cannot collect snow, leaves and water and will make the basement warmer in winter and will also eliminate the hazard of icy stairs. The building is now in a very good state of repair and Mr. George Aldred is the custodian and is doing a fine job in taking care of the property. In 1962 as in every year since its inception, Chateau-Thierry Post No. 36 of the American Legion has taken charge of the traditional Memorial Day services on May 30th, fittingly decorating all veterans' graves, and carrying out appropriate ceremonies to commemorate the service and sacrifice those veterans gave to our Country.

An annual event in the Post program is the awarding of the American Legion Historical Medal to the high school student who has excelled in American History during the past year. The Post has also sponsored candidates among the high school students for the Legion Oratorical Contest. In the year 1963 the winning contestant from the Primghar High School competed in the county contest and won second award.

The Post has always maintained a service department for the benefit of veterans and their families. The Post Service Officer has the

duty to see that all veterans in the community can avail themselves of the various benefits for veterans as provided for by law. These include claims for disability compensation, hospitalization, insurance, and death benefits to the family in case of a veteran's death. The Service Officer often assists in securing furloughs for men in the service when there is serious family illness or death. Gordon Rosecrans has served as Post Service Officer for the past eighteen years.

Boy Scouts

by—MRS. A. D. SMITH

In April 1913, just three years after the Boy Scouts of America was organized, Col. F. M. Thompson, Scoutmaster and organizer, came from Rock Rapids and organized a troop in Primghar. There were twenty boys and young men of 12-18 years of age organized into three patrols. J. H. Wolf was Scoutmaster, Dr. Roy Avery was 1st Assistant, and Burdette Bosserl was 2nd Assistant. Charlie Mast is the only local resident known of that first patrol.

During the 1930's Boy Scouts were organized in Primghar for short intermittent periods. The northwest part of Iowa was not in an organized area of the national organization. Whenever a troop was active here, they were registered through the Sargeant-Floyd Council which consisted of Plymouth and Woodbury counties.

About this time Mr. Waite Phillips, who was the head of Phillips Petroleum, decided to concentrate his charitable donations to one organization—The Boy Scouts of America. Through the Phillips Foundation he traveled about the country organizing various areas into Boy Scout Councils.

Attorney Hubert Schultz of Primghar was one of the men from surrounding counties who made several trips to Des Moines with this goal in mind. They were told by Mr. Phillips that he would donate ten thousand dollars to set up a council office and pay the salaries of two professional scouters for the first year. Thereafter the responsibilities, both financial and organizational, would rest upon the shoulders of these interested individuals within the council area.

A meeting was held in Storm Lake in 1939. At this time the men from various towns in nineteen counties promised to uphold scouting and Mr. Phillips presented the Prairie Gold Council with a check for \$10,000.

The only counties in northwest Iowa not in this Council are Lyon and Plymouth since they chose to remain in Councils with offices nearer; Lyon with Sioux Falls and Plymouth with the Sargeant-Floyd. The office of the Priarie Gold Council is at Fort Dodge.

In 1942 there were 23 Boy Scouts in Troop 153 in Primghar. This was the first Primghar troop to be registered with the Prairie Gold Council. With the exception of short periods of time, when there was no scoutmaster, the troop has been active. They are sponsored by the local Fire Department.

Some of the previous scoutmasters have been, Roy Smith, George Anderson, Kenneth Gleason, Jack Seivert, and E. J. Jolley. The present scoutmaster is Omer Grafton. He is assisted by Sid Cole and Gordon Steffens. The Troop committee is, Arthur Bergen, chairman; Dr. A. D. Smith, Dale Nelson, William Harries, and Robert Bornholdt. Also serving on the committee is Institutional Representative, William Crowley.

Two of the highlights in a Boy Scout's year at the present time concern camping out. In the latter part of May the Prairie Gold area has a three day camp held on their own grounds near Peterson. Between 900 and 1100 boys take part. The Primghar Troop has received several Presidential Citations for outstanding activities at this Camporee.

The boys spend one week during the summer at the Boy Scout Camp on Gull Point at Lake Okoboji. In 1962 the entire cost for the one week was \$18.00 per boy.

Another highlight is the annual First Aid Contest. Both district and council finals are held. In the 1962 the Panther Patrol of the local Troop took first place in this event.

Brownie and Girl Scouts

by—MRS. ROBERT ARONSON

In the late summer of 1943, Mrs. Clara Klingaman organized 10 girls who included, Alice Mae Tilton, Jo Ann Sundquist, Mary Jo Halbach, Colleen Mast, Donna Mae Mathison, Dorothy Lou Hardin, Jean Hunt, Rebecca Metcalf, Ruth Crosser and Mary Ann Schoening. As the years went by more girls were interested and more names were added. Mrs. Mildred Tilton assisted Mrs. Klingaman for five years. When Clara quit as leader, Mildred took over for a few years.

One project the Brownies had was to make favors and nut cups for the County Home, Nursing Home, and hospital, for the different Holidays. This has been carried on throughout the years.

Taking out of town tours and attending the Ice Follies were happy days for the Brownies.

The Primghar Women's Club sponsors the Brownie Organization.

Besides an annual Halloween Costume Party, financial aid has been given each year.

The Brownie Investiture is a big night for the new girls that become Brownies.

In the fall of 1955 there were 57 girls who became Brownies. Through the effort of Mrs. Herman Van Leeuwen, who was serving as business executive, representing the Women's Club, all the girls were in uniform, which at the time was a big thing. Also at this time an Advisory Board was established. Those serving on the first board were: Mr. Robert Aronson, Mr. Jerome Smith, Rev. Donald Weemhoff, Mrs. Irving Farnsworth and Mrs. Herman Van Leeuwen.

The Brownies took an active part in the Women's Club Convention in 1956.

In 1956, 30 brownies under the direction of Mrs. Herman Van Leeuwen, who was the business executive representing the Primghar Women's Club, took active part in the program, held in the Methodist Church, April 12. This convention was the thirtieth annual meeting of the O'Brien County Federated Women's Club.

The girls, looking very neat and trim, dressed in their Brownie dresses and caps, marched into the church carrying the American and the Girl Scout flags. They pledged allegiance to the flag and said the Brownie Scout promise in unison.

After eight years of Scout work



Front row, l to r.: Cheryl Kern, Ann Brown, Judy Powell, Linda Evans, Sharl Anderson, Evelyn Aronson, Mary Ebel, Carol Brown, Judy Limke, Cynthia Oldenkamp, Carol Gipson, Sydney Egger, Pat Willey, Sharon Casey. Second row, l to r.: Jean Schoening, Barbara Lorenzen, Linda Klink, Julie Slinger, Gloria Peterson, Mary Klink, Linda Vander Tuig, Kathleen Conn, Cathy Crowley, Patty Menke, Sandra Bonderman, Mary Smith, Lynn Sheridan, Sally Egger, Pat Merry, Beverly Webb. Left to right: Mrs. Wm. Petersen, Mrs. Edna Lorenzen, Mrs. Herman Van Leeuwen and Mrs. Denton Conn, (Mrs. Conn was taking Mrs. Charles Ebel's troop during her absence).

Mrs. Klingaman retired. The Women's Club honored her by giving her an honorary life time membership in the organization.

Other leaders and assistants who served three or five years were: Mrs. Chas. Ebel, Mrs. Wm. Petersen, Mrs. Edna Lorenzen, Mrs. Lucille Rook, Mrs. Wm. Webb, Mrs. Kenneth Kern, Mrs. Denton Conn, Mrs. Mitch Vander Tuig, and Mrs. Wilfred Postel.

Currently we have Troop No. 374 with 14 girls. The leader is Mrs. Neil Guetschow assisted by Mrs. Mike Schoening. They do craft work and have had a lesson in Red Cross.

Troop No. 474 has 16 girls. Their leaders are, Mrs. Howard Tiemens and Mrs. Don Kammerer. They meet once a week in the Legion Hall. Members of the Brownie Council are: Mrs. Wm. Devine, Mrs. Dale Craun and Mrs. John Brouwer.

Civil Defense

Realizing the danger of the age in which we live, the O'Brien County Civil Defense was organized in the fall of 1960 at the instance of the O'Brien County Board of Supervisors.

A public meeting was first held on October 31, 1960, in the Assembly Room of the County House in Primghar, at which the—then State Director of Civil Defense, C. E. Fowler, spoke to the group. The present State Director is Ray C. Stiles.

Iowa is one of eight states which comprise Civil Defense Region VI, with its headquarters in Denver.

Communications personnel, a vital part of our defense, headed by the RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) group, were

organized in O'Brien County before the civil defense groups came into being. The RACES men became a part of the civil defense groups, and have participated, along with other civil defense personnel, in practice alerts in the county.

Through the cooperation of the Board of Supervisors, emergency operating facilities are set up in the basement of the Court House. Radio equipment was purchased and installed, and additional electrical work in the way of conduits, outlets, switch panel, etc. was installed in the spring of 1963 so that power would be available in an emergency.

In January of 1961 and again in September of 1962 classes were instigated in radiological defense at Westmar College in LeMars, and O'Brien County presently has 35 radiological monitors with government-approved training. Those residing in Primghar are John Arrick, Lloyd Brown, Earl Kizzier, Don Rembe, Jack Seivert and Henry Tordoff. Official government monitoring stations have been established at Sheldon, Sanborn, Hartley, Moneta, Primghar, Sutherland and Paullina, and these towns have been supplied by the federal government with monitoring instruments, as will be the shelters approved for shielding from fallout protection as a result of the Shelter Survey made by the Army Corps of Engineers.

County firemen who do not have other civil defense tasks designated to them, such as radiological monitoring, along with other county male personnel, are organized as auxiliary police, to act in an emergency in protecting life and property, to prevent looting, etc., and to assist the civilians to safety.

Medical Self Help classes under the Department of Health and American Red Cross First Aid class-

es have been given countywide to teach the individual who survives. Several hundred have taken advantage of the two courses.

Four countywide civil defense exercises have been held in O'Brien County on April 28, 1961, December 1, 1961, May 16, 1962 and November 27, 1962, the exercise on April 28, 1961, being a nationwide exercise.

Civil defense was reorganized by the State in 1962 to place the responsibility therefor on local, county and state governments. Resolutions for this purpose were passed by the O'Brien County Board of Supervisors on June 25, 1962, and by Sanborn, Sutherland, Hartley, Paullina, Sheldon and Primghar Mayors and Councils at about the same time.

Supplemental planning, state and regional, provides for county extension agents and directors to work in cooperation with county civil defense directors to assist in getting civil defense information to our rural population.

Monthly meetings for all county civil defense groups, county and local directors and service heads, have been held since early 1961.

At this date (1963) the federal government is stressing rapid development of further civil defense plans, particularly in the shelter field to provide more adequate protection from fallout.

Increasing effort to overcome public apathy to civil defense is also being made. The responsibility for personal protection is fundamentally a matter for each individual.

Primghar residents active in civil defense and whose part in its organization in O'Brien County has been enormous, are William Luhrs, Chairman of the Civil Defense

Council; James M. Metcalf and Jack Seivert, County Co-Directors; Herman Van Leeuwen, County RACES Chief; and Roy Breyfogle, American Red Cross First Aid Chairman and County Disaster Chairman. The County Civil Defense Director at this time (1963) is Dorothy Merriam of Sanborn.

Primghar Community Fund

by—MRS. CLARK D. HUGHES

On November 28, 1950, Mrs. E. T. Peterson, retiring president of the Primghar Women's Club mentioned the fact that Primghar should have a Community Chest. After club members discussed the matter pro and con she suggested that we write a resolution to that effect. Mrs. Clark Hughes presented the resolution as adopted but it was not carried out until seven years later when Rosa Kaiser, President of the club in 1957, asked Mrs. Clark Hughes, retiring president, to try to get the chest organized.

On the way to the Fall Conference at Des Moines in the fall of 1957 Mrs. Clark Hughes was invited to attend the noon luncheon of the Ames Women's Club of Ames. Luckily her luncheon partner, Mrs. G. H. Hildreth of Ames, was one of the women who had helped set up the chest in Ames two years before. Mrs. Hildreth outlined their set-up as to agencies, board members, terms of office, etc. This was the plan used later by the Primghar Community Fund.

Using the Directory as printed in the Bell, Mrs. Clark Hughes, Community Achievement Chairman of the Primghar Women's Club, called a representative group of the key organizations of the town. Friday, December 6, 1957 at 2:00 p.m. this group met in the Assembly Room of the Court House. Mr. Hen-



Dec. 1957—First meeting held to organize the Primghar Community Fund.

ry Bossman of Sheldon, Secretary and Treasurer of the Sheldon Community Chest, was present to explain the reason for and the general set up of the Red Feather Campaign. The following organizations were represented at this meeting by:

County Officers: J. W. Brouwer, County School Superintendent; Town Officers: Roy Bennett, Mayor; School Officers: Mrs. Robert Nicholson, President of the School Board; Ministers: Donald Weemhoff, also Boy Scout leader; Chamber of Commerce: Leo Frisby; Library Board: James Metcalf, also for First National Bank; P.T.A.: Mrs. Wm. Powers; Red Cross: James Metcalf; Legion Auxiliary: Mrs. Clark Hughes; Rebekah Lodge: Olivia Baker; Women's Club;

Mrs. Herman Van Leeuwen, Mrs. Robert Nicholson and Mrs. Clark Hughes.

At the conclusion of the meeting the group decided to meet in the Assembly Room of the Court House on December 14 at 7:30 p.m. At this meeting J. G. Peelen, Sanborn, came to our rescue and explained how they handled their drive for charitable organizations in Franklin Township. His plan was not adopted but sped us on the way to setting up the drive suitable to the Town of Primghar and the surrounding townships which were invited in at this time. The townships named were: Center, Dale, Highland, and Summit. The board of directors elected for Primghar were: Jerome Smith, Rev. G. Fairbanks, James Metcalf, Mrs. R. A. Ballard and R. T. Smith, also Mrs.

Donald Greenlee as delegate-at-large, to represent the Primghar Women's Club. Each of the townships was to send a representative to the organization meeting at a later date. Those present at this meeting were: Mrs. Clark Hughes, representing Dale Township and Women's Club; Mrs. Ross Ballou and Olivia Baker, for Cancer; Mrs. J. F. Smith, Legion Auxiliary; Rev. George Fairbanks, Ministerial Association; Roy Bennett, Mayor; Mrs. Donald Greenlee, Primghar Women's Club; Mrs. Robert Nicholson, School Board; James Metcalf, Red Cross and Library Board; Mrs. James Vollink, Farm Bureau and Summit Township; Mrs. Ernest Rembe, Legion Auxiliary and Summit Township; Mrs. Chris Anderson, Rebekah Lodge; Mrs. R. A. Ballard, Progress Club and Girl Scouts; Leo Frisby, Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. Wm. Powers, W. Brandt, and Arnold Steuck, to represent Center Township. Others present were, Mrs. Leroy Salzkorn, R. T. Smith, and George Kaiser.

The board of directors met at the Light Plant on January 20, 1958 and elected the following officers:

Rev. Geo. Fairbanks, Chairman; Preston McCracken, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. R. A. Ballard, Secretary; and Jerome Smith, Treasurer. Those to present townships were: Mrs. Clark Hughes, Dale; Ernest Brandt, Center; and Preston McCracken, Summit.

R. T. Smith had already been solicited to write up the Articles of Incorporation. These were presented and agreed upon at a later date.

January 27, 1958, the goal of \$4100 was set after averaging the results of the following individual drives that had been made for the several years preceding. It was agreed each township was to contribute \$700 and the town of Primghar was to collect \$2000. The

Agencies placed on the first card were: Cancer—\$875; Heart—\$375; Polio—\$800; Red Cross—\$500; Boy Scouts—\$360; Salvation Army—\$225. Co-workers for the residential district of the town of Primghar were selected by Mrs. Donald Greenlee, and for the business district by A. P. Anderson. The chairman of each township selected a worker for each school district, which made nine solicitors in most cases.

By information received from the United Fund of Iowa we learned that we could not call our newly formed organization, Red Feather Campaign, unless we paid a fee of \$50 to the National Organization. Therefore we could not use the red feather symbol. We decided against the membership in the National Organization and planned to put the \$50 to better use. Thus the name: Primghar Community Fund.

Our first annual meeting held in the Assembly Room of the Court House, June 8, 1958, was open to the public and every year since that time the Annual Meeting is on the second Monday in June at 8:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Court House. This meeting is open to the public and frequently new agencies take advantage of this meeting to contact the board to be placed on the card of solicitations. During the five years we have been operating successfully, meeting our goal. The goal has varied from time to time and some agencies have come and gone and come back again. Some of the same board members have held over these five years, some new ones have been added. The plan is to stagger the term of office one, two, and three years. The agencies have all been paid for 1963 and we have received some very good letters thanking the Community Fund for the contributions.

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Court House in Primghar, June 10, 1963 at 8:00 p.m. The board of directors meet in September to organize and set up the new drive. Highland Township met with us on September 15, 1953 but have never organized.

Cub Scouts

by—MRS. A. D. SMITH

The Primghar Cub Scouts were organized in October 1943 with William Kaiser as the first cubmaster. He had been approached by a number of Primghar boys who asked him if he would please help them organize Cub Scouts. That October, 23 boys, 3 den mothers, and 3 den chiefs were registered. They were sponsored by the Primghar Chamber of Commerce at that time. The Chamber of Commerce has continued to sponsor the boys until the present time.

Waste paper was collected and sold by the boys to raise a sum of \$200.00. With this amount uniforms, books, and other materials were purchased. They were also able to pay for the boys' registration fees and there were no dues charged.

Mr. Kaiser continued as cubmaster for eight years, during which time there was an average group of 22 boys each year.

Other Cubmasters have been: Wilfred Postel who served for six years; Max Sturdevant for one year; and Dr. A. D. Smith from 1958 until the present time.

In the fall of 1962 there were 60 Cub Scouts in the local Pack 15.

One of the highlights of the Cub Scout program is the celebration of Boy Scout week in February. This is the month in which the Boy Scouts of America were organized

in 1910. For the past several years the local Pack has celebrated with a father-son banquet. This year, due to the size of the group, the boys and their parents celebrated by visiting the Sanford Museum and Planetarium at Cherokee. Lunch was enjoyed at Speelman's in Cherokee following the visit at the museum.

To be a Cub Scout a boy must be at least eight years of age and not yet eleven. Cub Scouting recognizes the home as the greatest influence in a boy's life. There is a registration fee of fifty cents and dues are ten cents per week.

The Chamber of Commerce is to be thanked for paying the \$25.00 yearly fee for the Charter for Pack 15.

At the present time there are six dens which meet weekly with the following Den Mothers as leaders: Mrs. Donald Forrest, Mrs. Gaylord Hopkins, Mrs. Clifford Viessman, Mrs. Kenneth Schoening, Mrs. Earl Newman, Mrs. Neil Bonderman, Mrs. Burdette Ebel, Mrs. Mitch Vander Tuig, Mrs. Wm. Webb, Mrs. A. D. Smith and Mrs. Dale Reese.

The boys are presented with any awards earned at the Pack meetings which are held at the Legion Hall on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Cubmaster Dr. A. D. Smith presides at the Pack Meetings.

I. O. O. F. Lodge

by—MRS. EVA SMITH

On October 23, 1890 the IOOF Lodge was organized in Primghar in the Court House. The first night 21 new members were initiated.

The Charter members were: F. W. McCormack, W. H. Noyes, J. R. Borland, R. P. Jones, H. O. Smith, Hans Johnson, Frank A. Turner, and Geo. H. Cook.

The first Noble Grand was H. O. Smith and the Vice Grand was R. P. Jones.

For a time lodge was held in the rooms of the Noyes building which was later destroyed by fire. This building was just west of what is known as the Hub Hotel. Then the Lodge, in 1895, feeling the need of permanent quarters, in connection with Jacob Wolf of the Bell newspaper office erected the present brick building on the corner of Elm and 15th Streets. For a time the Yeomen and Woodmen Lodges leased space from the Odd Fellows. The IOOF continues to meet in this hall as does the Rebekah Lodge.

In the course of the years since they were organized they have had three who were 50-year members. Mr. J. B. Sanders became a fifty year member in 1945. Mr. H. O. Smith, having been a member in Pennsylvania, had 65 years in the lodge before he passed away in 1949. Geo. D. Smith, still living, is a 55 year member.

The present officers are: Geo. D. Smith, Noble Grand; John Smith, Vice Grand; Ward Irvine, Financial Secretary; Ivyl Crouch, Recording Secretary.

O'Brien County Farm Bureau

by—MRS. CLARK D. HUGHES

The O'Brien County Farm Bureau was officially organized on February 2, 1918, when a group of interested people met in the Court House in Primghar. Mr. Eugene Sullivan acted as temporary chairman and Mr. W. S. Armstrong as temporary Secretary.

Mr. J. E. McNeil of Ames was present and outlined the objects of a farm organization. One of the purposes was to have an organization to sponsor Extension work in

the County. An organizing committee of four was appointed along with the temporary chairman, to approve or reject the proposition. The members of that committee were as follows: Eugene Sullivan, President; W. S. Armstrong, Secretary; A. V. Brady, Vice-President; Fred Lamkin and Simon Tjossem.

The Directors of the first board were as follows:

Hartley—Chas. Boyce
Lincoln—Ross Raymond
Franklin—Dave Norton
Floyd—A. C. Lamkin
Carroll—Bruno Saupe
Summit—Herman Harms
Center—Gay Hesse
Omega—H. D. Stoterau
Grant—Will Eddington
Highland—Tom Irvine
Dale—Simon Tjossem
Baker—Fred Lamkin
Caledonia—J. C. Lange
Union—Archie Henderson
Liberty—C. C. Montgomery
Waterman—Guy Youde

This Board of Directors met on February 28, 1918 and hired Mr. Millard Jackson as the first County Agent in O'Brien County. They met again on March 16, 1918 and discussed the new T.B. test for cattle.

Due to the fact that the County had experienced a killing frost the latter part of August, there was a serious lack of seed corn in the County. A seed corn testing laboratory was set up to locate any corn that had a strong enough germination to be used as seed. I can recall, there was a farmer in Center Township who had some old corn from the previous year that tested very well and he sold most of it for seed at \$10.00 per bushel. This was an unheard of price for the open pollinated varieties of those days.

There was a great shortage of

wheat for flour and farmers were urged to plant some wheat as World War I was drawing to a close and flour, sugar, etc., were being rationed. The O'Brien County Farm Bureau ordered a car of seed wheat to be shipped in and sold at cost to farmers who would plant it.

Mr. Millard Jackson's stay as County Agent was rather brief and he resigned on June 1, 1918, after about three months of service. Miss Fay Crawford was employed as office assistant in June 1918, a position she held for ten years. In August a Mr. Lundberg was employed to replace Mr. Jackson.

In September 1918, a committee composed of Mr. A. C. Lamkin, Mr. Herman Harms and Mr. Bruno Saupe was appointed to contact the Board of Supervisors for an appropriation of county funds to help carry on the Extension program in the county. This appropriation was not mandatory at this time but was at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors.

The cost of this Extension program was to be borne partly by County Funds and partly by the State Extension Service and partly by the sponsoring organization which was the major farm organization in that particular county.

By December 1918 there were 295 paid members in the County of O'Brien. President, Eugene Sullivan was elected to attend a convention of County Farm Bureaus in Marshalltown for the purpose of forming a State Farm Bureau Federation.

One of the topics discussed at the September meeting was the price to be paid for corn picking, which was all done by hand in those days. It was decided that seven cents per bushel should be paid where an elevator was furn-

ished and eight cents per bushel be paid when the picker had to scoop his own load. This was adopted as standard rate.

In January 1919 Mr. Lundberg resigned as County Agent and Mr. Rex Yockey was hired to fill the vacancy.

The Federal Land Bank Act was up for passage and was being opposed by the Farm Mortgage Bankers. Farm Bureau entered a protest against the Bankers opposition to this legislation.

In 1919 the officers of the O'Brien County Farm Bureau asked the Board of Supervisors for \$2000 to carry on the program.

In January 1920, Mr. A. V. Brady of Sanborn was elected President of the O'Brien County Farm Bureau. In February 1920, a resolution was filed opposing compulsory military service. At this time Rex Yockey resigned as County Agent, to go into farming for himself. Mr. W. P. Hanson was hired to take his place. Miss Fay Crawford was asked to appoint a committee of three women to choose the Home Economic Projects for the county.

In 1923 Mr. Floyd Brown was selected to represent O'Brien County Farm Bureau before the Iowa Executive Board asking for a reduction in the tax levy on O'Brien County Farm land and secured a reduction of three percent.

In December 1923, Articles of Incorporation were written to establish a permanent Farm Bureau Women's Organization. Mrs. Walter Randolph was elected the first women's chairman. First chairman for each township as follows:

Hartley: Mrs. W. C. Warnick
Grant: Mrs. Roy Dobricka
Lincoln: Mrs. Harry Muxlow
Highland: Mrs. Elmer Lake
Franklin: Mrs. Emmett Protector

Dale: Mrs. B. F. Rohwer
Floyd: Mrs. Mildred Whitmore
Baker: Mrs. W. F. Kaiser
Carroll: Mrs. T. J. Saupe
Caledonia: Mrs. Ed. Dobbartin
Summit: Mrs. W. S. McNutt
Union: Mrs. A. F. Brown
Center: Mrs. A. A. Hollowell
Liberty: Mrs. M. J. Welch
Omega: Mrs. Chas. Zinn
Waterman: Mrs. M. J. Schomer

At this time Mr. W. P. Hanson resigned and Mr. Rex Yockey was again employed. In March 1923, Mr. Rex Yockey resigned and Mr. M. G. Birlingmair was employed to take his place.

In November 1932, an Arbitration Committee was appointed to help settle rental disputes between landlord and tenants as we were in the midst of the greatest depression and farmers and land owners were being dispossessed of their property. On this committee were: A. Henderson, LeRoy Getting, Wm. Blauhauvietz, and Wm. Klink.

In May 1933, Miss Alene Wilson was hired as the first Home Economist in O'Brien County.

During the establishment of the AAA Farm Program and the Corn Hog Program the County Agent devoted most of his time to that work.

In 1934, the Farm Bureau started in the Automobile Insurance business being connected with the State Farm Mutual Auto Insurance Company.

Up until 1935, Farm Bureau had occupied the rooms in the Court House, now used as the County Welfare Office. These rooms were originally intended for the County Attorney but since that office had been held by local attorneys, they preferred to use their own offices and so Farm Bureau had been allowed to use them. Now a new County Attorney had been elected

who lived in Sheldon and he wanted the office in the Court House so Farm Bureau had to move. Several other towns wished to have the Farm Bureau move to their town. The business men of Primghar got busy and many of them came in and took out membership in the Farm Bureau which was \$5. at that time, and also worked to find offices for the Farm Bureau.

At a special meeting of the Board it was decided to accept the rooms over the First National Bank owned by Mr. Ralph Hinman. While they were being prepared for occupancy Farm Bureau moved, briefly, into the offices now occupied by Dr. W. C. Bolender.

In 1936 Farm Bureau dues were raised to \$10.00 per year.

In 1937, Farm Bureau appointed a committee to work for and help with the R.E.A. program. Farm Bureau assigned Mr. Birlingmair to spend full time obtaining easements and contacting farmers for rights of way. An application for 325 miles of line with 852 customers was prepared and sent to Washington. The result was, that O'Brien County was far ahead of most other counties in getting R.E.A. lines built and in operation.

In 1939, the State Farm Bureau established its own Farm Bureau Auto Insurance Company, and the O'Brien County Farm Bureau hired P. L. Youngers as General Agent.

In 1942, Mr. M. G. Birlingmair resigned and Mr. Kenneth Kramer was hired as County Agent. He later went into military service and Mr. Frank Ehman was hired in 1943. In 1945, Mr. Frank Ehman was hired by the State Farm Bureau. A Mr. Vander Berg replaced him until 1946 when Mr. Kenneth Kramer returned from the service.

In 1946 the O'Brien County Soil Conservation Service was established.

ed. In 1947, Mr. John Longstreet succeeded Kenneth Kramer as Extension Director. In 1947 the Farm Bureau dues were increased to \$15. per year. In 1949 the O'Brien County Farm Bureau decided to build a home of its own. A Building Committee was authorized to purchase the land now occupied by the Farm Bureau Building. An architect drew up the plans for the building and T. G. Raines was awarded the contract for the new building.

After completion of the building, all the Agricultural Services in the county, eventually, moved into the building, namely, County Extension, ASC, SCS, Farm Bureau, and Farm Bureau Insurance Company. This provides one stop service for the Farmers of O'Brien County.

In recent years, the Agricultural Extension Service has been separated from the sponsoring organization and is operated by an Extension Council made up of Directors from each township and financed entirely by tax money. Previous to that time the Extension Program was financed partly by the State and Federal money, partly by county appropriation and partly by funds of the sponsoring organization, which was O'Brien County Farm Bureau. At no time was the Farm Bureau Legislative program financed by any Federal, State or County Tax money.

Down through the years, Farm Bureau has worked for better edu-

cation, and sound legislation, so that agriculture can maintain and improve the living conditions of all people through better food, healthier livestock, and abundant food supplies.

Farm Bureau has the largest membership of any farm organization in the United States. Three out of every four organized farmers belong to the Farm Bureau. The O'Brien County Farm Bureau reached its highest membership in 1955 at 1714 members.

The membership has a voice in shaping the policies of the Farm Bureau, also extensive research is carried on so that their program will be based on facts.

The following men have served as County President of the O'Brien County Farm Bureau throughout its history. They, with many others have given much of their time and effort so the program could be carried out.

Years Served	Name
1918-19	Eugene Sullivan*
1920-21-22	A. V. Brady*
1923-24-25	Simon Tjossem*
1926-27-28	J. T. Velin*
1929-30	Chas. J. Getting*
1931-32	W. A. Peek
1933-34	Bert Tibbetts
1935-36	H. B. McNutt*
1937-38	W. T. Henderson
1939-40-41	Thomas N. Haddeh
1942-43-44	LeRoy Getting
1945-46	Orlo Smith*
1947-48	Fred Saupe



The O'Brien County Farm Bureau Building.

1949-50	Henry Harnis
1951-52	Claus Schlicht
1953-54	Emmett Hirt
1955-56-57	Clark D. Hughes
1958-59	Daryl Getting
1960-61	R. L. Simm
1962-63	Harrison Fisch

* Notes (Deceased)

O'Brien County Rural Electric Cooperative

O'Brien County Rural Electric Cooperative is a farmer-owned corporation serving its members with central station electricity which had not been made available to them by the public utilities.

In 1935 the government of the United States, by act of Congress, offered to any electric utility organization the right to borrow money from the government at a low rate of interest and with some exemption from income tax on their earnings provided the organization would serve all users in the area and return the excess earnings to the users. Very few of the big business utility organizations would take advantage of this offer because their earnings are returned to their stockholders who are seldom the users of the current. Therefore farmer cooperatives were formed in all the states to bring electricity to the rural areas at a price the farmers can afford to pay.

O'Brien County Rural Electric Cooperative is one of the earliest electric cooperatives formed in Iowa. Most of the organizational work was carried on through the Extension Service and the O'Brien County Farm Bureau in the years 1936 to 1938. Mr. M. G. Birlingmair was County Agent at that time, and working with a group of interested farmers the groundwork was laid for the Cooperative. Meetings were held for signing applications for service in every

part of the county. An engineering firm, Buell and Winter of Sioux City, was employed to lay out a plan for the service lines, and legal counsel was retained, Stephens & Wisdom of Des Moines, to guide and guard the work of the organization. Over 600 members for 300 miles of line were signed for the first application for funds.

Enough encouragement was received from the Rural Electrification Administration that the plan of the system was feasible so that incorporation of the group was completed on July 12, 1938. A Board of Directors of nine men were elected from the township leaders and Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were adopted. The first Board of Directors was made up as follows:

Everett M. Dodge, Hartley, President.

R. W. McFarland, Sheldon, Vice President.

F. W. Schulz, Paullina, Secretary.

V. C. McCarty, Sheldon, Treasurer.

Harry Williams, Hartley.

Enoch P. G. Nelson, Sanborn.

W. F. Steuck, Primghar.

John Friedrichsen, Paullina.

Herman Mericle, Paullina.

Fred H. Steuck of Primghar was hired as the first superintendent and Caroline Bohan, Primghar as the first bookkeeper.

Application for the first loan to build the service lines was made, and the loan was approved in the late months of 1938. Construction by the J. P. O'Neill Co. of Fairbault, Minnesota began in 1939, and the first member, Mr. George Groen of Hartley, was connected for electric service on August 15, 1939.



August 1939—The above picture shows the process of turning on the first R. E. A. electricity in O'Brien County. The George Groen farm was the first to receive the electricity. Mr. Groen is pushing the switch, thus sending electricity into their home and farm buildings. Besides Mr. Groen in the picture are from left to right: Mrs. Groen, their daughter Iola, who stands in front of J. G. O'Neil of the J. P. O'Neil Construction Co., which firm erected the R.E.A. lines in this county; Harry Williams, vice president of County R. E. A.; Robert O. Hasse, Federal Inspector of R. E. A. lines; Fred Steuck, Superintendent of the County R. E. A. system; Geo. J. Braun, Superintendent of Construction for J. P. O'Neil Co.; Millard McNutt, R. E. A. Right-Of-Way man; Carl Anderson, Manager of the Central Iowa Telephone Co. at Hartley; Mrs. Caroline Bohan, Secretary at the County R. E. A. Office; Wm. Crowley, Lineman and Geo. Sweet, Storm Lake, Manager of the Buena Vista Electric Supply Co.

At first wholesale power was purchased from the municipal plants at Primghar and Hartley. When the load of kilowatt hours needed was greater than the municipal plants could supply, Iowa Public Service Company sold current to the Cooperative. In 1956 a transmission cooperative, the

Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative, was organized and in 1957 began wheeling power to ten electric cooperatives in northwest Iowa from Fort Randall Dam on the Missouri River where the Bureau of Reclamation was generating current. O'Brien County Rural Electric Cooperative is one of the



June 1963—R.E.A. Personnel. Front row, left to right: Wm. Crowley, Manager; Caroline Bohan, Office Manager; Lloyd Brown, Farm Service Man; Violeta Merry, Billing Clerk; Henry DeWaay, Janitor. Back row, left to right: Roy Breyfogle, Line Foreman; Omer Grafton, Lineman; Dale Nelson, Lineman; Paul Pierce, Lineman; Don Rembe, Work Order Clerk; Dale Jenkinson, Lineman; Elliott Sheley, Fleet Supervisor.

ten cooperatives receiving this service. The Town of Primghar and other municipalities in this area now also buy wholesale power from the Bureau of Reclamation and the Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative wheels this power for them.

At first the consumption of electricity was very small on the farms, and it was remarkable if a farmer used more than forty kilowatt hours per month. The average consumption now, in the winter months, is over 1000 kilowatt hours per month per member. The number of consumers has grown from less than 600 at the beginning to slightly more than 1400.

At first the Cooperative occupied some office space in the Farm Bureau rooms, but moved

to the Williams Building on the Northwest corner of the square in January of 1939. In 1944 the Williams Building was purchased, later the Ten Kley Implement Building across the street from the Municipal Plant was purchased for a warehouse and a quonset was added to the north for storage space. In February 1963 the building formerly occupied by the John Deere firm owned by Mrs. Loretta Halbach was purchased and remodeled for a warehouse after a disastrous fire at the old warehouse. The Seivert Furniture Building has been purchased for the office headquarters and after remodeling will be occupied in the fall of 1963.

The present Board of Directors and employees are as follows:

Directors

Everett M. Dodge, Hartley, President.

Ortman Kaiser, Hartley, Vice President.

F. W. Schulz, Paullina, Secretary.

Ernest Puhrmann, Granville, Treasurer.

Carl Akeson, Jr., Archer.

Millard Morfitt, Sanborn.

Orval A. Akeson, Archer.

Bill Wagner, Gaza.

Marvin H. Johnson, Hospers.

Employees

Wm. J. Crowley, Manager.

Roy Breyfogle, Line Foreman.

Lloyd B. Brown, Farm Service Man.

Donald W. Rembe, Work Order Clerk.

Caroline Bohan, Office Manager

Violeta M. Merry, Billing Clerk.

Henry DeWaay, Janitor.

Dale P. Nelson, Lineman.

Elliott Sheley, Fleet Supervisor.

Dale W. Jenkinson, Lineman.

Paul Pierce, Lineman.

Omer H. Grafton, Lineman.

Order of Eastern Star

With the exception of approximately the first ten years of the existence of Primghar as an incorporated town, the Order of Eastern Star has been one of the social functions of the community.

The Order began its career here on June 22, 1898 when a group of eligible and interested ladies and gentlemen met in an organizational meeting at the Masonic Hall and selected the following as officers for the newly formed group:

Miss Ella Seckerson, Worthy Matron; Ralph Hinman, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Fannie Stott, Associate Matron; J. S. Nye, Secretary; J.

E. Stott, Treasurer; Miss Merte Rogers, Conductress; Miss Glo Stearns, Associate Conductress; Mrs. Eva Stearns, Adah; Mrs. Carrie Armstrong, Ruth; Mrs. Jennie Montzheimer, Esther; Mrs. Emma Williams, Martha; Mrs. May Rosecrans, Electa; H. C. Williams, Warder; W. A. Rosecrans, Sentinel.

In addition to the above officers, there were present the following members whose signatures appear on the Charter which was later presented and at which time the Order was incorporated: Mrs. Gertrude Artherholt, Mrs. Sarah Carter, W. S. Armstrong, S. A. Carter, O. H. Montzheimer, Mrs. Blanche Ingham, Mrs. Ida Nye, W. W. Artherholt, C. Ingham.

Having now been in existence for nearly sixty-five years, the Order enjoys a membership of over two hundred, which includes eleven who have been members for more than fifty years, namely:

Eva Byers, Bessie Langley, Jessie Hinz, Ralph E. Langley, Edith King, Minnie Little, Roy King, Nellie Olander, Rosa Kaiser, Vida Peck, Ethel Robertson.

Primghar Chapter, which had grown steadily since its founding, was very much pleased to announce in 1930 that Mrs. Nellie Olander had been elected Grand Worthy Matron of the State of Iowa at its regular annual meeting. A number from this Chapter have been chosen as state officers down through the years. Among them were: Miss Ethel Shearer, Emil Olander, Mrs. Helen Keene, Mrs. Ida Saupe, and Mrs. June Stangeland, to name only a few. Mention of length of service in the Chapter was made when Mrs. Bessie Langley completed a term of twenty-five years as secretary.

Officers serving for the present year are: Ardis Bornholdt, Worthy

Matron; Robert Bornholdt, Worthy Patron; Barbara Craun, Associate Matron; William Harries, Associate Patron; Ida Saupe, Secretary; Hallie Cobb, Treasurer; Delores Manley, Conductress; June Stangeland, Associate Conductress; Violeta Merry, Adah; Jessie Fritzsche, Ruth; Metta Devine, Esther; Martha Smith, Martha; Leona Harries, Electa; Orva Jean Jacobs, Warder; Freddie Jacobs, Sentinel; Ella Miller, Chaplain; Vivian Powers, Organist; Hilda Crosser, Marshal.

Primghar P. T. A.

by—MRS. RODNEY HUGHES

With an interest in promoting better understanding between parents and teachers for the benefit of the pupils in the Primghar School, a group of parents, headed by Dunrith Waund, President; Hubert Schultz, Vice-President; Caroline Bohan, Secretary and Bert Trower, Treasurer, organized the present Parent-Teachers Association in November, 1949.

There had been a P.T.A. organization at an earlier date, in the 1920's and 30's which had become inactive in the late 1930's.

The present organization has been instrumental in assisting with the hot lunch program, purchased a deep freeze for the hot lunch program, sponsored the adult education program, helped with the Recreation Area, purchased library tables and new 50-star flags for the school and at the present time are financing the new stage curtains.

The officers for the current year are, D. H. Greenlee, President; H. R. Grigg, Vice-President; Mrs. Rodney Hughes, Secretary, and Mrs. Jerome Smith, Treasurer.

Primghar Chamber of Commerce

Though not too many records of the past are available, it is well to know that the Primghar Chamber of Commerce is the "hub of the business circle." The Chamber maintains a high level of trade promotions; and is constantly seeking to improve the town, business-wise and culturally.

The members keep a high level of interest in school and municipal affairs.

Members are assessed each year. People entering business during the year are given their first membership free from the time during the year they entered business to the end of that year.

The president serves one year, and the vice president moves into the president's rank the following year. Nine directors serve a term of two years each.

Officers for 1963 are: H. C. Grafton, president; Lee Ewoldt, vice president; Dale Craun, secretary; directors: Art Bergen, Burdette Brundage, Arnold Charlton, Hap Gravenish, Alvin Petersen, Arnold Ridenour, Jack Seivert, Wally Sohn, Dean Williams.

Primghar Library

by—JAMES M. METCALF

MARCH, 1963

The Primghar Library had its beginning in the minds of the Social Dozen Club, the fore-runner of the present Thursday Club, in February 1916, when the ladies made plans to organize a library for Primghar on a volunteer basis, under the direction of a committee composed of Mrs. John Kerrigan, Mrs. Roy H. King and Mrs. Earl Rosecrans. A public reception was held at the then new Hub Hotel, the admission price be-



April 1963—The Primghar Library on 15th Street.

ing one or more books donated, either new or used. In this manner over three hundred books were acquired, others being donated by Emil Olander from his pay library in his drug store. The new library was set up in a small corner of the Joseph Metcalf Hardware Store, which was offered to the club for library space.

In May 1916 the Social Dozen Club passed control of the library to a newly organized women's group of which Mrs. Earl Rosecrans was president, and Mrs. Roy H. King was chairman of the library committee. From 1916 to 1920 various ladies acted as volunteer librarians, the library being open one day a week.

By 1920 the Primghar Public Library was an official organization, for on November 3, 1919 the first official library board was appointed by the mayor. It was composed of R J. Locke, O. H. Montzheimer, Mrs. M. S. Metcalf, Mrs. Roy H. King and Mrs. Kenneth Rerick. In May, 1920 the first tax levy was made, which provided the first tax funds in 1921.

From the Metcalf store the library was moved to rooms over the First National Bank in 1922, where it remained until 1934, when it was moved to the H. L. Williams building on the west side of the square. After five years there, in 1939, it was moved to the basement of the Hub Hotel, thus completing a full circle, back to the place where the first books were collected.

Meanwhile, considerable tax funds had been accumulated in the Building Fund, so that in 1949, the Library Board, composed of L. O. Lampman as president, Miss Dana Rerick, Miss Ethel Shearer, Mrs. John Arenz and Mrs. Floyd Brown, purchased the vacant German Evangelical church building, which was remodeled into a unique but functional home for the "traveling" library. On Feb. 11, 1950 an Open House was held, at which the public inspected the well planned building, which now in 1963 houses over 7,500 books, numerous periodicals, and several sets of encyclopaedias. The library is open fourteen hours each week.

In 1961 the Primghar Library Board was instrumental in helping organize a new O'Brien County Library Association composed of the six public libraries in the county. The association, with the cooperation of the O'Brien County Supervisors, who supplied funds, has made free library service available to all rural residents of O'Brien County, with reciprocal borrowing privileges for all library card holders, either town or rural, at any public library in the county. O'Brien County was one of the first counties in the state to adopt this progressive program.

With the assistance of the State Traveling Library, in 1962, the Board authorized a complete weeding of obsolete books and the establishment of the modern Dewey Decimal System of cataloging, which is now completed.

Full credit must be given to the early Board Members who organized the library, especially to O. H. Montzheimer, Board President for many years, who donated his collection of Indian Relics to the library. L. O. Lampman was president at the time the present building was remodeled, and had much to do with its unique design

Of equal importance are the devoted librarians who have served the patrons well over the years. The first paid librarian was Mrs. Luella Hughes, who served from 1926 to 1937. She was followed by Mrs. Ruth Buckland for the years 1937 to 1943. The present librarian is Mrs. I. L. Farnsworth, who for twenty years (1943-1963) has very capably assisted her patrons in all their reading problems.

On the current Library Board are: James M. Metcalf, president; J. W. Brouwer, vice president; Mrs. John Arenz, treasurer; Mrs. R. A. Ballard, secretary and Miss Dana Rerick. Mrs. Arenz and Miss Rerick have served on the Board

for many years, a remarkable record of public service.

Primghar Volunteer Fire Department

by—C. E. JENSEN,
CHIEF—MARCH 15, 1963

After the fire of October 31, 1902 destroyed the buildings on the south side of the Square, the city passed an ordinance to install a city water system. Prior to that time the only water available for fire fighting were the wells located on the court house Square. Two of these wells are still available. The fire department annually pumps these two remaining wells dry during their drafting practices. The only way they had to build pressure in their hose lines was by a hand operated pump. Hose was carried on a two wheeled cart pulled manually.

The city purchased a new and their first fire truck, in the fall of 1928. This was a Luverne fire pump, powered with a continental motor. This equipment gave them a pump capable of giving them 500 gallons per minute at 300 lbs. pressure. This truck was in use until the year of 1951.

On June 6, 1932 an ordinance was passed establishing a fire department and regulating memberships. A brief summary of the ordinance is as follows: An ordinance established a fire department and regulated membership thereof; provided for the suspension and removal of fire apparatus to fires; regulated the use, operation and removal of fire apparatus; provided for the exercise of police powers necessary to extinguish a fire; prohibited injury to, or destruction of, fire apparatus; gave fire apparatus the right of way through traffic; regulated the following of fire apparatus to and



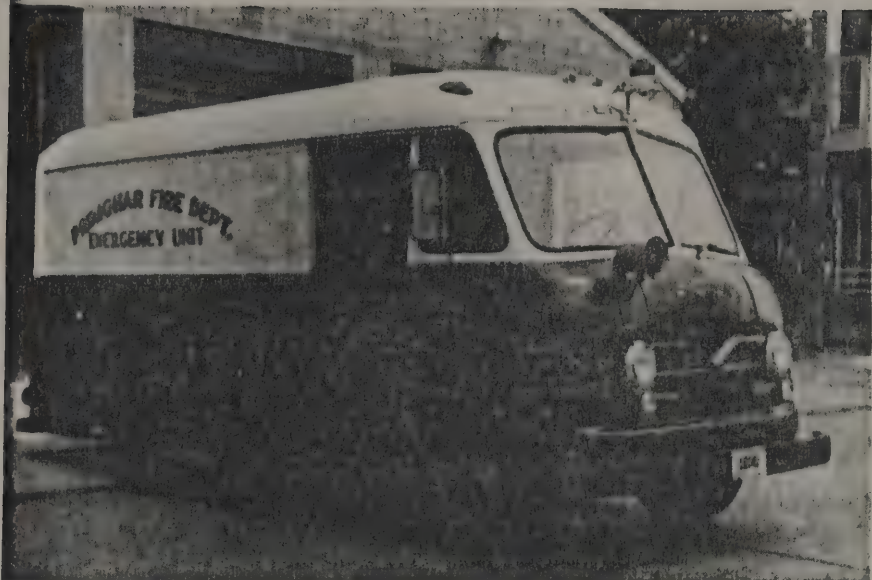
PRIMGHAR'S FIRST FIRE TRUCK—Purchased in 1928, it was traded in on a new high-pressure truck in 1951. The old truck went to Eason, Minnesota and is still in use. Chas. Mast (standing) is oldest fireman in years of service. Seated, a fire truck company representative.

from fires; and provided a penalty for the violation thereof.

In the year 1941 the O'Brien County Mutual Insurance Company and the city councils of all towns in the county entered into an agreement whereby the Insurance Company would furnish a truck for each town. The city firemen in turn were to operate this equipment. Ours we call our Rural fire truck for protection of farm properties of the surrounding area. It also is available for answering city fire calls. This truck was equipped with 1,000 ft. of hose, and carried 400 gallons of water plus numerous hand extinguishers. This vehicle was replaced with a new 250 gallon pumper the year of 1962, capable of transporting 1,000 gallons of water to the farm fires.

The city purchased a new High-Pressure John Bean fire truck in 1951. This unit produces 850 lbs. pressure plus 500 gallons of water per minute. It carries 500 gallons of water and 1,200 ft. of hose. It is still in use and is our No. 1 fire fighting unit.

In 1961 the firemen started a drive for funds to equip our community with an Emergency Unit. The firemen had plans to purchase a second hand walk-in van for this purpose. The success of their drive proved this community was much in favor of this new addition to our Department, therefore the city council saw fit to buy a new vehicle for this purpose. All money from the drive was used to purchase the contents of the Unit. It is now rated as one of the best equipped Units in the State of Iowa.



Primghar Emergency Unit—purchased in 1961. One of the best equipped units in the State of Iowa.



Volunteer Firemen—Fall, 1962

The Fire Department now had three vehicles to house and only room for two. For some time the two fire trucks were placed in the Light Plant and the Emergency Unit in the new deep well pump house.

The year 1961 a new fire station was planned. The old pump house was demolished and replaced with a new cement block-4 stall building. The fire department moved into this new station in the fall of 1962.

A set of By-Laws was adopted by the fire department and city council, and as of March 15, 1963, this same set of By-Laws still exists and is enforced rigidly.

Members of the fire department when By-Laws were adopted were: C. E. Jensen, Chief; Herman Van Leeuwen, Ass't. Chief; Forrest Potter, Sec'y.-Treas.; R. W. Betz, V. C. Schoening, Howard Baker, M. Ames, Wm. Crowley, Bert Sundquist, Chas. Mast, H. Slinger, Martin DeYoung, H. E. Claussen, D. R. Conn, John H. Sheridan, and Lloyd Brown.

List of the active members to date are: C. E. Jensen, Chief; Dale Nelson, 1st Ass't.; Glen Roos, 2nd Ass't.; Don Rembe, Sec'y.-Treas.; Walt Bern, Sr., Pete Flick, Sr., Lloyd Brown, Paul Pierce, Omer Grafton, Herman Van Leeuwen, Chas. Mast, Howard Baker, Wm. Crowley, Neil Bonderman, Roger Smith, John Thompson, Wally Sohn, Dale Anderson, Don Krier, Alvin Petersen, Bill Harries and Burt Ebel.

Chas. Mast has been a member of the fire department since 1918 except for one year, and is the oldest member with the most active years.

Primghar Women's Club

by—BARBARA GREENLEE

The Primghar Women's Club was organized in April, 1941, with 33 charter members. It was elected to membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs in December of 1941.

In 1961 the 20th Anniversary of the Club was celebrated, honoring six active charter members. At the present time there are four charter members who have had continuous membership. They are: Mrs. Walter Krumm, Mrs. E. T. Peterson, Mrs. Irving Farnsworth, and Mrs. Forrest Potter.

The present Club has 85 members in four departments which are: 1. Home and Garden; 2. Music; 3. Book, Travel and Drama, and 4. Hobby and Craft.

The programs through the years have been varied, adding much to the entertainment and education of its members.

The Women's Club has been active in many community projects as follows:

Sponsorship of Girl Scouts in Primghar.

Furnished the Children's Room at the Public Library.

Adult Education was started in night classes of the Primghar School.

Sponsorship of Parent-Teacher Association organized in 1949.

Assistance in improving the Community Hospital.

Cooperation with Tuberculosis Association in the Chest X-ray campaign.

Welcome Stranger Committee.

Art and Poetry Contests started in



September 1961—Shown above are the six active Charter Members of the Primghar Women's Club. The club observed their twentieth anniversary at their annual Fall Tea and Reception. Left to right: Mrs. E. T. Peterson, Mrs. Ray Ahrends, Mrs. Forrest Potter, Mrs. Walter Krumm, Mrs. Irving Farnsworth, and Mrs. J. H. Halbach.

the Public Schools in O'Brien County.

Purchased pictures and donated books for school rooms in Primghar.

Planted a Red Bud Tree on the Public Library grounds.

Sponsored a Reading Program as a County Project—5 to 25 books to be read per year.

Sends eye glasses for use by the needy.

Remembers shut-ins.

A Book Fair at P.T.A. meeting.

Sponsors Easter Music by Churches and Community.

Collection of Christmas gifts for residents of Mental Hospital at Cherokee.

Participation in Vogue Sewing Contest.

Treats to County Home residents as a County Project.

Christmas Carols and Program at the County Home.

Some State Federation Projects are:

Penny Art Fund.

Pan American Student Exchange

Indian Girl Scholarship

Scholarship and Loan Fund

Purchase of towels hemmed by

Iowa Blind Women

Freshman Scholarships

Specialized Educational Scholarships

Historical Heritage Room

Community Achievement Contest

Citizenship Award (Essay Contest)

Self Help through CARE

Handicap Campships
 Conservation Camp Scholarships
 Literacy Program
 Mental Health Scholarship

The following is a list of the presidents of the Primghar Women's Club and their terms of office:

1941-43	Mrs. Mary Peterson
1943-46	Mrs. Elvetta Coleman
1947-49	Mrs. Clara Klingaman
1949-50	Mrs. Mary Peterson
1950-51	Mrs. Betty Pierce
1951-53	Mrs. Betty Nicholson
1953-54	Mrs. Marcella Schultz
1954-55	Mrs. Barbara Craun
1955-56	Mrs. Electa Hughes
1957-59	Mrs. Rosa Kaiser
1959-60	Mrs. Mickie Van Leeuwen
1960-62-	Mrs. Jeanne Charlton
1962-64	Mrs. Barbara Greenlee

The Primghar Women's Club has open membership and welcomes all Primghar women.

Progress Club

by—MRS. JAMES W. METCALF

In 1928 a group of ten women met and organized the Progress Club of Primghar, a study group which held its first meeting on November 7 of that year. On the following January 3, 1929, the club voted to apply for membership in the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs. This was granted in February, with the certificate of membership in the General Federation following in May of that year, 1929. Charter members of the club were the following women: Mrs. H. L. Avery, Mrs. W. C. Bolender, Mrs. D. D. Fuller, Mrs. O. H. Montz-

heimer, Mrs. Emil Olander, Mrs. K. H. Rerick, Miss Dana Rerick, Mrs. E. A. Rosecrans, Mrs. C. E. Summy, and Mrs. Fred Wolf, with Mrs. Wolf serving as the first president. Other officers were: Mrs. Montzheimer as vice-president; Mrs. Olander as secretary, and Mrs. Bolender as treasurer.

The purpose of the club as stated in its constitution is "mutual improvement along all lines", and its meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month from September through June. The business meeting and program are preceded by a luncheon in the homes of the members. Originally, membership was restricted to twelve women, this ruling being amended later to allow for associate members who were unable to attend meetings for part of the year.

Progress Club participates in all county club projects and as many of the activities of the Iowa Federation and General Federation as possible. Christmas gifts to residents of the Cherokee Mental Health Institute or the O'Brien County Home, and other remembrances to the latter are an annual feature of their program. And the club has the unusual record of one hundred per cent participation in the Adventures in Reading project for the past ten years, that is, all members reading and reporting on at least five books each year.

At present the members are as follows: Mrs. W. C. Bolender, Mrs. C. O. Fisch, Mrs. C. W. Kimbrell, Mrs. James McCreath, Mrs. James M. Metcalf, Mrs. Emil Olander, Mrs. V. D. Peck, Miss Beata Reager, Mrs. Henry Reager, Mrs. K. H. Rerick, Mrs. Jerome F. Smith, Mrs. Roscoe Ballard, Miss Dana Rerick, Mrs. E. A. Rosecrans. The office of president is filled by Miss Reager, with Mrs. McCreath serving as vice-president, Mrs. Peck as secretary, and Mrs. Metcalf as treasurer.

**Rising Star Lodge,
Ancient Free and Accepted
Masons — No. 494**

by—O. H. MONTZHEIMER
and
R. DALE CRAUN

The first expression of Masonic Life made of record in Primghar occurred September 7, 1874. On that date brethren of the order petitioned the County Supervisors then in session, offering to assist in the building of the new Court house in return for use of a portion of the upper story for lodge purposes. The petitioners agreed to build the chimney nine feet higher, strengthen the timbers supporting the upper floor, partition off a lodge room, giving it entrance from the hallway by two doors. In return the county was to furnish free rent and exclusive use of a small room for storing paraphernalia. The larger room could be used for county purposes in the day time but the lodge had exclusive use of it one night each week.

By resolution of record the Board accepted the offer and the work was done by members of the order as "operative" masons. The room was reached by an outside open stairway.

The Supervisors who granted the request were Horace E. Hoagland, Benjamin Jones, Warren Walker, John F. Burrows, Harley Day, C. F. Albright and J. M. Boyer.

Later on February 19, 1875, Abiff Lodge No. 347 was given a dispensation from the Grand Master with charter members as follows:

Harley Day, Master
A. H. Willits, Senior Warden
Geo. W. Schee, Junior Warden
D. H. Wheeler, Treasurer
Elmer C. Foskett, Secretary
John T. Stearns, Senior Deacon

J. C. Doling, Junior Deacon
Wm. Pursell, Senior Steward
C. W. Inman, Junior Steward
Ed. C. Brown, Tyler

Members: William H. Brown, Moses Dixon, James Wykoff, Samuel J. Jordon, A. B. Husted

The first meeting was held March 26, 1875.

Before the end of the year members were added as follows: William E. Baldwin, Ed T. Parker, W. H. Riddle, J. W. Still and O. H. Titus.

Primghar began to grow and prosper; the lodge membership increased, but it was twenty miles to Sheldon and thirty miles to Cherokee to reach a railroad. By 1878 there were probably a hundred buildings in Primghar. Then the Milwaukee Railroad was extended west and was preparing to make a division point at Sanborn. The town was platted early in 1879; Hartley came into existence at about the same time. The attraction of railroad facilities drew residents of Primghar and those who could get away went to Sanborn; over fifty buildings, including the old Paine Grocery Store which had first been located 3 miles east of Primghar were moved across country to the new town on the north. The business at Primghar came to a standstill. By 1883 the town was almost deserted, except by county officers, and lodge attendance was poor. The members of Abiff Lodge, in a discouraged moment, met and resolved to move to Sutherland which had come into existence when the Chicago and Northwestern Railway built in there in 1882. On October 15, 1883 by vote of the lodge and at their request, Grand Master Geo. B. Van Saun ordered removal to Sutherland, and it has remained there ever since. Physical removal was effected December 8, 1883.

April 18, 1888 a dispensation was granted by E. C. Blackmar, Grand Master, of Burlington to the organization of Rising Star Lodge No. 496. The dispensation was attested by T. S. Parvin, Grand Secretary. The following members were named.

James B. Dunn, Master
W. S. Armstrong, Senior Warden
Frank A. Turner, Junior Warden

Members: James Shaw, David Algyer, George J. North, Thomas McMann, James D. Wilson, George M. Shuck, Joseph S. Nye, Thomas Rollins, Elmer C. Foskett, Ed L. Ballou, Herbert E. Thayer, Charles H. Winterble,, George Washington Alexander, and William H. Brown.

Visitors registering at the first meeting on April 24, 1888 were:

W. Hamilton and William D. Boies,
Onyx Lodge, Sanborn

D. D. McCallum, Broken Column
Lodge, Sibley

C. O. Piatt, No. 6, Macon, Illinois

Scott M. Ladd and Fletcher Howard, Mistletoe Lodge, Sheldon

Frank L. Meyers, Speculative Lodge, Cherokee

Seven petitions for degrees were presented:

Charles F. Albright
R. H. McElwain
Charles H. Crawford
Leslie D. Foskett
George R. Slocum
Thomas F. Ward
George E. Lacy

The receipts of the evening were \$80.00.

Pro tem appointive officers were:

Joseph S. Nye, Treasurer
W. L. Ballou, Secretary
Charles H. Winterble, Senior Deacon

Thomas McMann, Junior Deacon
George J. North, Junior Steward
George M. Shuck, Tyler
David Algyer, Chaplain
James Shaw, David Algyer, Elmer C. Foskett, Finance Committee.

Stated meetings were set for first Tuesday on or before the full moon.

The first meeting was held in the upper story of a cheese factory owned by William S. Armstrong. This was located one-half block east of the Schee Office Building. Afterwards the factory was rebuilt and conducted for years as a hotel—The Grand Hotel. It is now occupied by Tom Byers as a residence. \$120.00 per year was paid as rental but the room was sublet to the Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen and Grand Army of the Republic.

Wood burning stoves for heating were installed in August, 1888. A janitor at fifty cents per night was appointed. Controversies over use of the lodge room are recorded in the minutes. Eating of refreshments and smoking in the lodge room when the lodge was in session furnished the nub of the trouble.

Dates of meetings were, for many years, determined by the moon, but Tuesday night seemed to be the favorite. Regulation by the moon was abandoned when streets became lighted; for sixty-five years the present plan has been followed, namely the first Tuesday of each month. The first meeting after charter was received was June 25, 1889.

January 20, 1891 rooms over the furniture store operated by Charles Lockyer and a general merchandise store operated by Rice Reader were secured at \$150.00 per year. The building burned November 6, 1902. It occupied the

space now used by Schoening & Schoening Plumbing and Heating and Glenn's Secondhand Furniture Store. There was an outside stairway that led to the lodge rooms. The space secured was about 44 feet by 100 feet. As in the present lodge room, the entrance to the lodge room was inconveniently from the east or in lodge parlance from the "south". This room was also sublet to other fraternal orders.

In the fire none of the lodge property was salvaged. The records kept by the Secretary, J. S. Nye in his hardware store were saved, with the exception of the ledger. The Royal Arch Masons lost over \$1,000.00 in robes. In the summer of 1902 J. F. Boyer and Fritz Hinz were building a store building "L" shaped on the First National Bank corner and the Blue Lodge and Chapter entered into a contract by which a second story was to be built on the building, to be owned by the masonic organizations. The new building was nearly completed when our lodge hall burned and we moved in about thirty days after the fire. The expense of the upper story was \$3,300.00.

The first meeting of the Blue Lodge was held in the new hall December 16, 1902. The Eastern Star and Royal Arch also held meetings there in December, 1902.

No Masonic meetings were held in November, 1902.

In September 1912 oil lamps were discarded and gas lights installed; city water arrived at the same time.

Electricity was in the lodge rooms February 2, 1915. The same year brought us a new fire proof safe—cost \$123.00.

December 4, 1917 brother George

J. North presented us with an apron procured by a Northern soldier during the civil war in some southern town. It was given to Brother North by a relative. The apron is of silk, is evidently for use in a Royal Arch Chapter, and is framed and now hangs in the dining room.

During World War I the lodge purchased diplomas evidencing membership issued by the Grand Lodge, and delivered to those of our members who were serving in the army or navy. We also presented these patriots with a fountain pen, a service flag, and remitted their dues.

June 7, 1921 we secured a new carpet for \$887.00 and spent \$553.10 for decorations—all shared with the Royal Arch.

On November 1, 1921 the lodge approved a plan for steam heating

of the lodge rooms to be secured from the First National Bank heating plant. Nothing further was done about it. In November, 1927 two heating stoves were purchased at an expense of \$216.80.

Henry B. Reager received his certificate of proficiency as District Lecturer in 1928. He was the first Mason in O'Brien County to be so qualified and so certified.

The secretary's desk presently used was presented to the Masonic bodies by the widow of Brother John T. Stearns in 1906.

Over the years various improvements and additions have been made to the present lodge hall such as interior walls lined with "Nuwood", carpeting, venetian blinds, draperies, kitchen cupboards, chairs and other items of furniture. These were provided by the Rising Star Lodge, The Royal Arch Masons, Order of Eastern

Star or various members of these organizations.

On April 18, 1963 Rising Star Lodge completes 75 years of active Masonic Ritual Work. There are presently 115 members which includes three fifty-year members, who are: Ralph E. Langley, Wm. Schee, William P. Lowell. Robert Bornholdt is the present Worshipful Master; Donald Manley, Senior Warden and Harold DeWaay, Junior Warden.

Rebekah Lodge

The Rebekah Lodge, Auxiliary of the Odd Fellows, was organized here in 1899. The Charter was dated October 20, 1899. It was named Locke Rebekah Lodge No. 430. Charter members were: Rice Reader, Albert Kane, Rosella Kane, John A. King, Ella King, Geo. T. Lyles, Mary Lyles, Henry W. Geister, Anna B. Geister, James D. Beers, and Maggie Beers. No charter members are living now.

They have continued an active organization all the years and assisted in the upkeep of the Hall.

The present officers are: N. G., Lillia Johnson; V. G., Muriel Bonderman; Rec. Sec'y., Olivia Salzkorn; Fin. Sec'y., Sophia Appeldorn; Treas., Margaret McCauley; Warden, Mabel Anderson; Conductor, Ella Miller; Chaplain, Mayme Rembe; R. S. N. G., May Irvine; L. S. N. G., Agnes Merry; R. S. V. G., Eileen Irvine; L. S. V. G., Lillian Stubbendick; O. G., Marie Geister; I. G., Florence Ramsey; Musician, Marie Postel and Marvel Ballou; Color Bearer, Jennie Rembe.

The Charter was issued by E. W. Hibben, Grand Master, and Wm. Musson, Grand Sec'y.

Ward Municipal

Hospital Auxiliary

by—MRS. KENNETH SCHOENING
and—EDNA LORENZEN

The inspiration to start such an organization as Ward Memorial Hospital Auxiliary had its beginning during the summer of 1958. A group of ladies playing kittenball passed the hat at the ball games to meet expenses.

At the end of the season, there was money left over, consequently it was used for a party for the group. At that time it was mentioned how nice it would have been to use this money for our local hospital instead of our party. The idea caught "fire" and at a later date about six ladies got together and decided to see if they could start an organization to serve our hospital. These ladies were, Mrs. Neil Geutschow, Mrs. Lucille Rook, Mrs. Edna Lorenzen, Mrs. Rita Webb, Mrs. Muriel Bonderman and Mrs. Shirley Kraft.

It was decided at that meeting they would try to get more people interested by meeting in a public place where more could hear about the plan. The first meeting was attended by seventeen ladies. The group came to the conclusion they needed help in organizing this auxiliary and invited the officers of the Sheldon Hospital Auxiliary to attend the next meeting, and to explain in detail what would be necessary to get the organization started properly. The Sheldon ladies were very helpful by showing the administrative details, the by-laws and general information.

The administrators of the local hospital at this time were Dorothy Omer, R. N., and Adeline Jezerny, R. N.

The first recorded meeting of Ward Municipal Hospital Auxiliary

was on October 15, 1958 in the basement of the Schultz building. That evening the following officers were elected:

President, Mary Lou Guetschow; vice president, Ines Kleinheksel; secretary, June Stofferan; treasurer, Myra Seivert; membership drive chairman, Bernice Crosser.

The Salvation Army donated \$50.00 to help us get started on the new organization. It was decided at this meeting that the yearly membership would be \$1.00 for an active member; \$5.00 for an inactive member; and \$50.00 for a life membership. All those present were excited and pleased to be a part of a new organization which has proved to be one of the most active, energetic organizations in Primghar.

During the first year, activities were as follows: Arbie Feed Dinner; Bake Sale; Car Wash and Chamber of Commerce Dinner.

During this year we purchased the following items for the hospital: Sterilizer, \$450.00; 2 Chairs, \$186.00; 2 Beds and Porch Furniture, \$135.00.

New officers were elected on October 21, 1959: president, Ines Kleinheksel; vice president, June Stofferan; secretary, Muriel Bonderman; treasurer, Rita Schoening and membership drive chairman, Edna Lorenzen.

The State Board at Des Moines informed our local hospital board that in order to keep our hospital in Primghar, we would have to make plans to build a maternity addition to our building within the following year or we would lose the hospital license. Therefore the auxiliary was more enthusiastic than ever to prove to their community that they were a worthwhile organization and that they could overcome this problem that was facing them. Plans were

immediately decided upon to raise as much money as possible during the coming year.

Activities during the second year were as follows: Chamber of Commerce Dinner; Arbie Feed Dinner; Soil Conservation Dinner; Hard Time Dance; Queen of the Furrow Dinner; School Board Faculty Dinner; Membership Drive Coffee; Man of the Year Dinner.

The following items were purchased for the hospital during the second year: Suction Machine, \$234.00; Mattress, \$41.50; Rails, \$35.00; Bed, \$178.30.

The third year officers were: president, Rita Schoening; vice president, Bernice Crosser; secretary, June Stofferan; treasurer, Marian Ginger; historian, Lillian Nothdorf; membership drive chairman, Rita Webb.

The architect's plans were approved by the State Board in October of 1960. In order to build our new addition it was necessary to have a public vote. All auxiliary members advertised, discussed and informed the public on how important an addition would be to our local hospital and to our city. It was voted upon in an election, which unanimously carried. Although plans were complete it was necessary to wait with the building until the following spring.

Our activities for 1960 were: Cattleman's Dinner; Soil Conservation Dinner; Magazine Sales; Mother and Daughter Banquet; Bake Sale; Candy Sale; Dance; Membership Drive Coffee.

Items purchased were: Junior Bed, \$100.00 and Washing Machine, \$379.20.

Dorothy Omer and Adeline Jezerny resigned as administrators of the hospital on April 1, 1961. They will be long remembered for

their kindness and understanding personalities while they served our community for the previous ten years. Each was given an honorary membership in May, 1961.

At this time Mrs. Tom Nagle was hired as the administrator with her husband, Thomas, acting as cook. They moved here from Phoenix, Arizona in March, and assumed their duties on April 1, 1961.

New officers were elected on October 18, 1961: president, Kay Pierce; vice president, Edna Lorenzen; secretary, June Stofferan; treasurer, Marian Ginger; membership chairman, Wanda Breyfogle.

Activities for the year were: Faculty Dinner; Card Party; Arbie Feed Dinner; Talent Show.

Items bought: Dishes (Melmac); Plate Covers; Glasses; Silverware; Trays (fiberglass). A total cost of \$148.46.

We feel, this year was our most important year so far in the history of the Ward Municipal Hospital Auxiliary. The Hospital Board, consisting of Jerome Smith, Harold Grigg, Annette Peck, Dr. E. B. Getty, and Dr. A. D. Smith, met with the Hospital Auxiliary and presented the facts as to what would be needed to furnish and equip the new addition. The amount needed was \$15,000.00 to be raised by December 15, 1962. It was voted by the Auxiliary to accept this challenge. The Hospital Board members and the Hospital Auxiliary Board members met to set up a plan to organize a Fund Drive to start on July 9th and end July 30th.

The Auxiliary Board met with the following chairmen to map out their territories and to brief them on the drive in general:

Mrs. Arnold Ridenour, Mrs. Harold Grigg, Mrs. Leo Zeimen, Mrs. Jerome Smith, Mrs. Ray Japenga, Mrs. Donald Manley, Mrs. Thomas Hadden, Jr., Mrs. Harry Tesch, Mrs. Leon Hunt, Mrs. Edna Lorenzen and Mrs. Kenneth Schoening.

These ladies in turn appointed their workers and proceeded "full speed ahead." This drive was completed in exactly three weeks, achieving their goal of \$15,000.00 plus \$4,600.00. The enthusiasm of the public proved that they were interested, cooperative and more than willing to do their share in supporting our local hospital.

Officers remained the same for the year 1963 as the previous year, due to the fact we felt they did an excellent job during their term of office. They graciously accepted their positions.

Citizens in and around Primghar have a right to be proud of their new beautifully completed addition to our hospital. Open house was held on March 31, 1963, at last completing our dream for better patient care in our new modernly equipped hospital.

Although we have been an organization for only five years we are justly proud of the progress we have made in such a short time. We are an organization that plans together, works together, plays together, plus the fact that we enjoy "just belonging."

CHAPTER VII – Governmental Units

The Incorporated Town of Primghar, Iowa

by—DALE CROUCH,
TOWN CLERK

Before the year of 1888 the village of Primghar was debating the question of whether to incorporate or not. Five commissioners were appointed by the District Court of Iowa to hold an election on this question, after proper petitions were brought forth, and to have legal authority until a Council was voted into office.

The five commissioners were, G. W. Doyle, W. S. Armstrong, E. W. Shuck, W. H. Noyes, and D. Alger.

After the election for incorporation was held, the commissioners called an election for April 3, 1888 to elect a Mayor and Town Council. The Incorporated Town of Primghar's first Mayor was C. F. Albright, and the Councilmen were, E. W. Shuck, J. L. E. Peck, G. R. Slocum, E. L. Ballou, G. W. Doyle and W. S. Rosecrans. The Council quickly set up different committees and appointed F. E. Wade the Treasurer. We find there was no Clerk at that time.

During the first year in office the Council had to pass numerous ordinances that would protect, as well as be for the best interest of the Town of Primghar. During the first year there were 24 ordinances passed. This is at least 3 times more ordinances passed than in any year since the year of incorporation. Some of the ordinances pertained to the meetings of the Town Council, to the Town Elections, to prohibiting the disturbance of an assembly of people, to prohibit reckless riding, to prohibiting hitching horses to trees or fences, and to regulating

the stacking of hay and straw within the town limits. Some of these ordinances may sound rather amusing, but I am sure they were as complex and important in that day as we feel our problems are today.

In 1889 J. A. Smith was elected recorder and become the first person to perform the duties of the present day Clerk. The number of Councilmen in that election was reduced from 6 to 5, the number used from that day forth for Councilmen. Also significant in the election of 1889 there were an equal amount of votes cast for 2 persons running for Mayor and the Council, at the next meeting, voted by secret ballot which one of the two they preferred to be Mayor.

In checking through the records, it is interesting to note that J. H. Halbach served on the Town Council and as Mayor from 1934 to 1952 and from 1954 to 1956, a total of 20 years.

Mr. James Metcalf served as Town Clerk from 1927 to 1948 a total of 21 years.

And Mr. Art Anderson served from 1930 to 1944, and from 1956 through the year of 1963. He has served on the Town Council a total of 21 years.

Waterworks

The Town people were quick to recognize the need for a Municipal Waterworks system. An ordinance, passed on March 10, 1902 provided for establishing, erecting, maintaining and operating a waterworks system. A contract was signed with J. L. White of Peru, Illinois in the amount of \$7,000.00 to construct the waterworks system.

The waterworks plant was built where the fire station is now lo-



Watertower and Pump House

cated. Water was pumped from wells located at the business square corners.

Due to the increase in the use of water, this supply soon became inadequate. On Sept. 6, 1928, the Town Council signed a contract with Matthew and Thomas Metcalf obtaining an easement on 10 acres of land for the purpose of digging additional wells. Four wells were dug on this 10 acres which are still in use today.

The reservoir to store this water was also inadequate and on May 14, 1929 the Council took bids for the construction of the Water Tower. The specifications called for the tower to have a capacity of 100,000 gallons of water and to be elevated 125 ft. above the ground. The contract was awarded to Pitt Des Moines Steel Co. and the price for the completed job was \$11,000.00.

Again in 1931, due to increased water usage, the Town found it did not have enough water. On Nov. 5, 1931 a contract was signed with Rasmussen Bros. of Sioux City to dig a deep well which is located where the fire station building is now located. This well is 438 ft. deep and has a capacity of 100 gallons per minute and is still in operation.

After the well was completed the Town had sufficient water until 1956. Due to dry years and increased water usage the Town again found itself short of water.

On July 16, 1956 the Town signed a contract with Layne Western Co. of Ames, Iowa to dig another well. This well is 625 ft. deep and the pump for it has a capacity of 200 gallons per minute. A contract for a filter station and 30,000 gallon reservoir was awarded to Otto Schuerkamp and General Filter Co. of Ames, Iowa. This well and filter station is located by the tower.

It was estimated in 1902 that the Town's need for water would be approximately 3,650,000 gallons per year. To give you an idea of how much the needs have changed since then, in 1957 it was estimated the Town's need would be 40,000,000 gallons per year. Today the capacity of the 2 deep wells will produce more water in one day than the Town's estimated needs for the entire year of 1902.

Over the years these projects have created a lot of problems for the Councils involved and I am sure that everyone agrees that each Council involved deserves a lot of credit for the fine water system we have today.

Sanitary Sewer

The Town Council, recognizing the need for a sanitary sewer, passed a sewer district ordinance on Sept. 5, 1916.

On Oct. 18, 1916 a contract was awarded to Peter Kruse to construct sewer mains, laterals, and a disposal plant. Total contract amount was \$26,812.00. This disposal plant was located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Town. This plant had sufficient capacity to take care of the Town's needs until the 1950's.

The Council, recognizing the need to replace the present plant, heard of a lagoon type system. They learned that this type cost about half the amount it would take to construct a conventional system and that it required very little, if any, maintenance.

After several Council meetings to discuss which system would be the best to construct, the Council on Oct. 6, 1958 purchased 41 acres of land from Geo. Smith and Harris Medhus to construct a lagoon type system.

On Oct. 14, 1958, a contract was awarded to Lundell Const. Co. of Cherokee, Iowa, for the construction of this disposal plant.

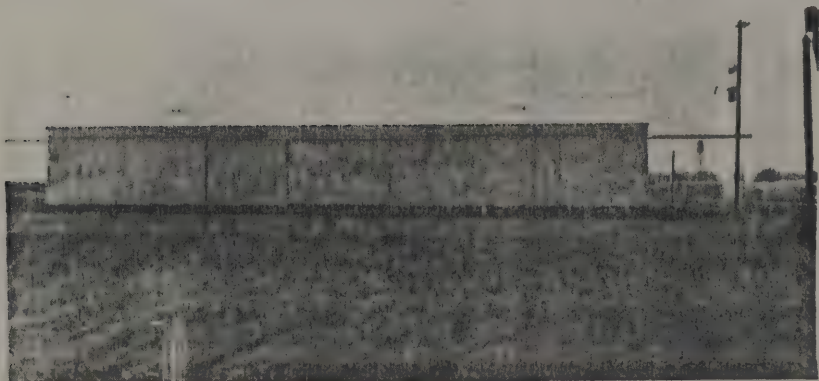
It was estimated a conventional system would have cost the Town \$100,000.00. The total cost of the lagoon system, including the pur-

chase of the land was \$74,000.00. The Town Council, which consisted of Roy Bennett as Mayor, and Vincent Cassidy, Gordon Rosecrans, Frank Stoneking, Fred Saupe and Art Anderson, was informed that there was a possibility of receiving Federal Aid on the construction of the sewer. Upon investigation, they found they were eligible and the Town received \$14,600.00 from the Federal Government to help defray the cost of this project.

Air Port

While the sewer project was being constructed, some of the local business men wanted to construct an air port runway on part of the 40 acres. The Town Council was informed that if the Town could raise $\frac{1}{2}$ of the money needed for this project, the State would pay the balance. It was learned the project cost would be \$10,000.00 and the business men took it upon themselves to raise \$5,000.00. With State Aid of \$5,000.00, shortly after the completion of the lagoon, the runway was also completed.

Realizing the need for a hanger for air craft, the Town Council



April 1963—Hangar At Primghar Airport



Ward Memorial Hospital

on Nov. 7, 1962 signed a contract in the amount of \$4,990.00 with E. G. Clinton Co. of Minneapolis, Minn., to construct a hanger. This project was completed a short time later, which brings us pretty much up to date on the short history of our air port.

Hospital

Realizing the need for a hospital for the Town of Primghar, Mr. George Ward built the Ward Memorial Hospital in 1914.

Mr. Ward, his wife and daughters operated the hospital until 1929 when it was sold to Kenneth Rerick.

In 1933 Kenneth Rerick sold the hospital to Knut Fjeld. He leased the building to be used as a hospital until 1945.

On January 4, 1945 an election was held by the Town to purchase the Ward Memorial Hospital from Knut Fjeld. This election carried by a wide margin and the Town took over the responsibility of the operation of the hospital.

The price paid for the hospital building was \$2,800.00 and \$1,-

100.00 was paid to Wilbur Steen for the supplies and equipment.

Due to increased demands made by the State, in order to receive a license the Council was faced with the problem of either closing the hospital or building an addition.

An election was held on Dec. 6, 1960 to provide for the issuance of a \$75,000.00 bond issue to construct an addition, which also carried by a very large margin.

Contracts for this addition were awarded to Reuter Construction Co. of Hospers, Iowa, for the general contract; Visser Bros. of Orange City, Iowa for the plumbing and heating; and Johnny's Electric of Sioux Center, Iowa for the electrical system on March 6, 1962.

After the bids were opened, the Council learned that the project would cost \$90,000.00 instead of the \$75,000.00 voted at the election. They immediately transferred \$15,500.00 from the Light Account to make sure there were sufficient funds to complete this project.

Although many problems arose, I am sure the Town Council, which consisted of Roy Bennett as Mayor, and Gordon Rosecrans, Don Hagen, Jack Seivert, Clay Edwards and Art Anderson, as well as the community, can be proud of the hospital we now have.

Parks

Recreation facilities for the Town of Primghar, which consisted of a small park by the Water Tower, were found to be inadequate in the early 1920's.

In the month of May, 1924, a group of business men purchased a tract of land West of where the C-D Farm Service building is now located, to be used as a softball and football field.

This tract was used until 1946 when again it was found the facilities were inadequate.

On August 29, 1946 the Council, which consisted of Joseph Halbach, Mayor, and E. T. Peterson, Roy Waldhelm, Walter Krumm, Jack Sloan and N. A. Seivert, was petitioned to purchase 8.6 acres of land from A. E. Ohme for a park and playground. This land

was purchased for \$375.00 per acre.

A \$25,000.00 bond issue was needed to defray the cost of the purchase of land and the construction of the park. Bonds were sold to the local Primghar Savings and First National Bank for 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ % interest, the lowest rate of interest on record of any bond issue of the Town.

The Council hired Ira Van Buskirk to grade the park which cost \$1,215.00.

On March 3, 1947 the Town entered into a contract with the Giant Mfg. Co. of Council Bluffs for the purchase and installation of a complete set of lighting equipment for a football and baseball field at a cost of \$6,400.00. The shelter house was also built in 1947 and in 1955 rest rooms were constructed.

In 1951 the Fair Board entered into an agreement with the Council and the Chamber of Commerce, and the O'Brien County Fair site was moved from Hartley to the Town Park. The Fair Board has since built quite a few very at-



Band Shell At Memorial Park



Shelter House At Memorial Park

tractive buildings on this site. I am sure that most of the people in the community will agree that this is one of the finest parks to be found in Northwest Iowa.

Streets

In 1917 the Council, which consisted of Geo. Ward, Mayor, and B. Bertelsen, Chas. Hinz, Wm. Hendry, Frank Eddington and John King, decided it was time to eliminate the mud streets in the business district.

After overruling all objections, of which there were many, a contract was awarded to Dearbon Construction Co. of Waterloo to brick pave around the square and concrete pave Elm Ave. from 13th St. South to 21st St.

Outside of graveling, the rest of the streets remained as they were after this project was completed, until 1949.

In 1949, the Council, which consisted of J. Halbach, Mayor, and B. H. Anderson, Walter Krumm, N. A. Seivert, Jack Sloan and Roy Waldhelm, decided it was necessary to improve some of the remaining streets.

A contract was awarded to Booth and Olson of Sioux City on June 22nd, 1949 to pave 20 blocks. The project cost was \$132,833.00. The blocks were from 14th and Fir Ave. N. to 13th, then East on 13th to Birch, then South to 14th St. From Cedar Ave. West to Elm St. on 14th, 15th, 16th, 20th and 21st St. From 16th St. and Fir Ave. South to 20th St. After this project was completed, there was no more improvement by the Town until 1953, although in 1949 the County did pave 18th St. from Cedar Ave. West to the City limits.

In 1953 the Council, which consisted of J. C. Bross, Mayor, and John Greenlee, Dale Anderson, Floyd Huling, Frank Nye and Gordon Rosecrans, signed a contract with Croft Construction Co. of Fort Dodge for a paving and curb and gutter project. This project cost was \$123,798 00. Paving on this project consisted of 16th St. from Fir Ave. West to Maple Ave., Cedar Ave. West to Elm Ave. on 17th and 19th St., widening the pavement on 18th St. from Cedar Ave. West to Maple Ave. and curb and gutter on 32 blocks.



Primghar Municipal Light Plant

Electricity

The first kilowatts of electricity used in the Town of Primghar were manufactured by Henry Williams. Mr. Williams owned the West side of the square and installed his own power plant to produce the electricity he needed to furnish lights for his businesses. This was before 1914.

In 1914 Geo. Healy of Sanborn, Iowa, was voted a franchise to furnish electricity for the Town of Primghar. Mr. Healy's power was generated by a steam plant, using coke, which was a by-product of the railroad roundhouse at Sanborn. A transmission line was built from Sanborn to Primghar.

In 1915 Mr. Art Anderson purchased the distribution system and franchise from Mr. G. Healy. Mr. Anderson owned the franchise until 1925. In 1925 he sold to a Boston, Mass. concern which was consolidated later into the Iowa Public Service Co.

In 1936 Primghar and vicinity had a bad snow and sleet storm that left the Town without lights or power for 36 hours. By this

time quite a few oil burners and stokers had come into use as well as numerous other electrical machinery which could cost the owners of this machinery great sums of money if they became inoperational because of the lack of electricity.

In 1937 the voters voted to reject the franchise of the Iowa Public Service Co. and install their own power plant. This was accomplished after a long drawn out and expensive fight which is well remembered by many of the people living in Primghar today.

The Council, which consisted of J. Halbach as Mayor, and Art Anderson, C. D. Bourke, W. V. Jobs, T. W. Kammerer and Roy Waldhelm, met on Nov. 2nd, 1937 to approve plans and specifications and award a contract to construct the light plant. A contract was awarded to L. A. Kepp.

After the plant was completed, two engines were installed, one a 225 horse power and another a 300 horse power engine. The cost of the construction, purchase of the distribution system and engines was \$118,000.00.



Primghar Municipal Boom Truck

Everyone figured that the Town was able to produce more kilowatt hours of electricity than it would ever consume, so Primghar and Hartley entered into a contract with the O'Brien County Rural Electric Cooperative to furnish them with power. Engineers had stated that the Rural Electric Cooperative would require only 250 kilowatts per hour when fully developed. As everyone knows today there was nothing further from the truth. The Council was to learn this just 3 years later.

On April 7, 1942 the Council signed a contract with C. J. Scharlau of Mason City, Iowa for delivery and installation of a used generator purchased from Busch Sulzer Co. of St. Louis, Missouri.

The demand for electricity continued to grow and in 1948 the Council decided it would have to drop the O'Brien County Rural Electric Cooperative as they were using over half the power the plant could furnish

In 1949 the Council again found the Town was short of electricity. The Council which consisted of Joseph Halbach, Mayor, and B. H.

Anderson, Walter Krumm, N. A. Seivert, Jack Sloan and Roy Waldhelm, awarded contracts to extend the present plant and install a new engine. The engine was a 900 horse power Nordberg which could produce over 600 kilowatt hours of electricity. The total amount of this project was \$90,000.00.

With the generating capacity of over 1,100 kilowatts the Council was sure that this would be sufficient for a long time to come.

In 1953 the Council learned that the Bureau of Reclamation was installing a dam at Pickstown, South Dakota and there was a possibility of receiving power from the dam. They decided it would be to the best interest of the Town to pursue the development of this project and see if the Town would be able to purchase power from them.

On Jan. 12, 1955, the Town Council, which consisted of J. H. Halbach, Mayor, and Gordon Rosecrans, Walter Krumm, Roy Waldhelm, Vincent Cassidy and Lorenz Braunschweig signed a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation to purchase power, 600 kilowatts



Primghar Public Safety Building

firm power and 320 kilowatts secondary power.

The Bureau constructed a transmission line $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles South of Town and on the 4th day of October, 1955, the Council awarded contracts for a substation, construction of a transmission line to the line the Bureau had constructed, and panel board improvements. The total amount of this project was \$60,000.00. Today almost all power that the Town uses is purchased from the Bureau of Reclamation.

The Light Plant has done much to raise the standard of living in the community and has paid for quite a few items the taxpayers would have had to pay for if it were not for the plant.

The cost of electricity has steadily decreased since 1914. The rates in 1914 were 15c for the first 10 K. W., 14c for the next 10; 13c for the next 10 and 12c for the balance. Compute your present bill at this rate and I am sure you will find there are quite a few electrical appliances you have that you would have to dis-

continue using, if a similar rate were charged today.

The Light Plant has paid for quite a few community improvements also. In 1951 \$6,945.00 was transferred to the Public Safety Account to pay for the Town Fire Truck. This money has been returned to the Light Plant, but the community had to pay no interest for the 9 years it was loaned. \$30,000.00 was transferred to the General Account to pay for the new Fire Department Building and the Community Center. \$15,500.00 was transferred to the Hospital Account to help pay for the addition to the hospital. \$2,500.00 was transferred to the Air Port Fund to help pay for the hanger that was constructed. \$3,239.00 was transferred to the Public Safety Account to pay for the Emergency Unit. The above transfer will also be returned, but again no interest will be paid. \$2,000.00 was transferred to the Emergency Account to start said fund and to have some operating capital. This list is not all of the transfers, but will give you some idea of how the plant has helped the community.

The cost of the Light Plant and Improvements total \$285,000.00. This does not include the improvements made to the distribution system or equipment purchased, such as trucks, tools, etc. The

\$285,000.00 above mentioned was raised through the issuance of Revenue Bonds and on Nov. 1, 1958 the last of these bonds was paid off and the plant is now debt free.



1963—Councilmen, left to right: Clay Edwards, Gordon Rosecrans, Art Anderson, Jack Seivert, and Don Hagen.



1963—Town employees, left to right front row: Henry DeWaay, Neil Bonderman, Dan Ginger. Back row: Glenn Thompson, Henry Hilbert, Robert "Jake" Mulder, Bill Ginger, Lars Rosenkjar.

Primghar Community School

by—MRS. A. D. SMITH

The first commencement program ever held in Primghar was held on June 2, 1893 at the opera house. The graduation class consisted of five girls. They were Amy L. McCroskey, Martha J. Rust, Grace G. Foskett, Lottie J. Shuck and Lou B. Rollins.

The entire program was printed in the O'Brien County Bell of May 25, 1893 as follows:

PROGRAMME

Invocation
Music Quartette
Oration Echoes
 Amy L. McCroskey
Essay The Dignity of Woman's
 Labor Martha J. Rust
Music Duet Misses Shuck
 and Rollins
Oration The Living Dead
 Grace G. Foskett
Music Quartette
Essay Destiny of Great Men
 Lottie J. Shuck
Music Solo
 Mrs. F. M. McCormack
Oration and Valedictory Night
 Brings Out the Stars Lou
 B. Rollins
Presentation of Diplomas
Class Song By Class of '93

The superintendent at this time was Prof. J. J. Billingsley. He was assisted by three teachers. The admission for the occasion was fifteen cents for adults and ten cents for children. This was charged to cover the cost of the opera house rent, printing, etc., so that Prof. Billingsley would not have to stand the cost.

It is interesting to note that two of these first graduates, Miss Lou Rollins and Miss Grace Foskett were among the six members of the teaching staff of the school in 1897.

The precedent was set, and until the year 1904 each graduate gave an oration at the commencement exercises. There were no graduates that year, the reason being that an additional year of work was added to the requirements for graduation. However, a program was held to celebrate the closing of the school year.

Owing to the large number of graduates (13) in the year 1905 it was impossible for all the members to give orations. Eight orations, four recitations and one piano number were presented by the graduating class so that each member participated in the exercises. The orations were limited from five to seven minutes. The O'Brien County Bell states "It is expected that the program will not exceed two hours which is a little less than the usual time."

The next year (1906) the commencement program was changed to resemble those of the present time. A speaker was engaged to give an address. The graduates continued to give orations and recitations, but they were given on Class Day.

In the year of 1912 the senior class presented a class play at which time an oration concerning the class history was given. There was no class day this year and the custom of each graduate presenting an oration ceased.

For a long time the girls of the graduating classes wore white dresses and the boys wore suits. In the late 1920's part of the graduating classes wore caps and gowns. Since 1930 this has been standard apparel for the occasion.

In the newspaper account of the commencement exercises of 1912 appears this interesting paragraph: "The main feature of the evening so far as the young people were



The First Primghar Public School.

concerned was the lowering of the junior class colors in the middle of the stage and the release of a dove decorated with the colors of the class of 1913."

A visit with some of the former graduates from the school brought forth the reason for this rather amusing event. It seems that for a number of years there was great rivalry between the junior and senior classes especially near commencement time. Each would try to have the final round in a series of pranks and display his class colors.

In 1924 the school officials informed the class officers that they were responsible for calling a halt to these activities.

Perhaps these few lines from an 1887 O'Brien County Bell makes us realize as much as anything how much change has taken place in our school system. "School directors should bear in mind that they are liable to a fine for not planting trees around the school houses."

The first annual was published

by the class of 1913 and was called "The Enterprise". It was a very nice leather covered booklet and contained material similar to the present annual except that it concerned strictly high school members and their activities. It was the exception rather than the rule to publish an annual until about 1950. The present annuals cover both grade and high school interests, and the cost is \$2.00.

Sports have held an important place in the school system for many years. Baseball was played very early in the school system, but has been dropped in recent years.

The earliest newspaper account of football was given in 1904. The first game of that season was played against Sanborn with 300 spectators attending. Primghar won 32 to 0.

A short article in the 1909 newspaper stated that our girls had played a basketball game against Paullina. It is assumed that the boys played basketball at least this early.

The first year the school ever had a track team was 1913. Primghar placed sixth place in the half-mile Relay at the Drake Relays in Des Moines that year.

At the present time we are active in the following sports: foot ball, both boys and girls basketball, and track. The junior high school boys and girls take part in the above listed sports to a limited extent.

Vocal music has been taught in our school almost since its beginning. The same is not true for instrumental music, however. It was started in the late 1920's and in 1933 the orchestra entered the music contest for the first time. The string section was discontinued with the start of the band in 1940. For the past several years the Primghar school has had an excellent concert band with fifty to sixty students participating.

On November 8, 1872, W. C. Green and James Roberts dedicated as a part of the original town a two acre block for school purposes.

The first building was about 26 by 40 feet, was two stories high and was built in 1873 by S. E. Stewart of Sheldon at a cost of \$4000. It contained two school rooms, one above and one below. This building was used for school, church, conventions, dances, lyceums, and public gatherings. This first building was sold in 1890 when the second building was built. It was bought by S. T. Hill for \$200.00 and moved to Alton, Iowa.

On May 31, 1890 a contract was let to H. E. Reeves for a school building 45 by 60 feet in size, containing four school rooms and a superintendent's office at a cost of \$5,200.00. On May 16, 1896 a further contract was let to E. Miller to build an addition of the same size to the existing building, thus

making the whole structure 60 by 90 feet. It now contained eight school rooms with a library room used as a recitation room, and a superintendent's office. The cost was \$3,200.00. A hot air heating plant was installed at a cost of \$1,100.00.

Contracts were let on May 27, 1912 for the first brick building. The building was one-fourth larger than needed at the time, with the idea of development and growth.

School was held in churches, Masonic Hall, basement of Hub Hotel, etc., while the building was constructed. The school equipment, including seats, desks, piano and organ, was moved over the weekend.

On Monday, March 24, 1913 the new building was occupied. The following description is taken from the O'Brien County Bell of March 27, 1913.

The High Schools occupies, with main assembly room and five recitation rooms, almost the entire upper floor. There are seats or desks in the assembly room for 77 pupils and room for more if required. 100 could be comfortably seated, if necessary.

The superintendent's office is located on the upper floor, on the south side over the main entrance and commands a fine view of the town.

On the lower floor, on the south side, is located a teachers' rest room, where, when occasion offers, the teachers may meet for relaxation and rest.

The seventh and eighth grades are located in the southeast corner room. There are 37 pupils. Every room is fully equipped with fine slate blackboards and everything needed for school work.

The second and third grades (30

pupils) are in the northeast corner room.

The first primary (39 students) is located on the north side in the center.

The fifth and sixth grades (31 pupils) are in the southwest corner.

The fourth grade (27 pupils) is located in the northwest corner.

The main room in the basement is the gymnasium, about 37 by 53 feet and 14 feet high, with hardwood floor and spectators' galleries on the ends and one side.

In the northwest corner of the basement is the boiler room with two large boilers and a convenient coal cellar on the north side and outside of the main building.

On the west side is a fine large room intended for a manual training class; it will not be used this year except as a store room, but application has been made for \$750.00 allowed by the state and it is expected to have an instructor next year.

On the opposite or east side of the basement is a like room intended for a domestic science department.

In the southeast corner of the basement are located the girls' toilets, dressing rooms, etc. and in the southwest corner those for the boys, including a shower. In the center and in a sort of sub-basement, is located the automatic pump to supply water to the boilers; also a steam engine and fan for ventilating purposes.

The outside dimensions are 70 by 100 feet with a fine portico and broad entrance.

The interior is finished in hard pine and stucco. Every room has two entrances, the stairways are broad and easy; the halls broad;

cloakrooms convenient and commodious. There is a fine library room and a laboratory room—nothing seems to have been omitted. The heating and ventilating plants are the best and up to date. The entire building is wired for electric lights. There are drinking fountains in the halls and fire hose at convenient places.

The cost of the entire outlay, all complete, is \$31,000.00.

The board of education is composed of J. L. E. Peck, pres., L. T. Aldinger, Jos. Geister, Wm. Ortman, and C. N. Williams. W. H. Downing is secretary and Wm. Briggs, treasurer.

The present high school building was erected in 1936, at a total cost of \$63,572. At that time the building contained eight classrooms, an auditorium-gymnasium, locker rooms, the school offices and rest rooms.

The members of the school board in 1936 were: Walter Anderson, pres., Ernest Fritzsche, J. A. Wagner, Alexander Nicholson, and Leo Lampman.

In 1953 contracts were let for the construction of a 30 by 60 cement block industrial arts building. The cost of the building was \$6,490.

Board members at this time were: Roger Lathrop, pres., Walter Jeffers, Sr., Caroline Bohan, Elizabeth Nicholson and William Casey.

A bond issue was passed for \$40,000 and in 1958 an addition was made on the north side of the existing high school building. New shower and dressing room facilities were provided in the basement. The one story above ground contains two rooms, one for vocal music and one for band.

Board members at that time were: Elizabeth Nicholson, pres.,



The Primghar Community School—1963

Caroline Bohan, C. E. Anderson, Harold Grigg and Bernerd Jons.

The entire plant in 1962 consists of a grade school built in 1912; an adjoining high school built to the west in 1936, with an addition made in 1958, and an industrial arts building north of the main building.

Remodeling has been done from time to time, especially in the grade school. New light fixtures and also new desks and seats have been added during the past five to seven years. Even so, the grade building is showing its age and is overcrowded.

The independent school district of Primghar was formed in 1887. Until this time the Primghar school was part of the Summit township school district. On Monday, February 21, 1887, 42 votes were cast. Of these votes 35 were for the Independent District and 7 were against.

This original Independent District containing 6.5 sections of land remained unchanged until 1960, when a reorganization took place. The area which was being

served by our school at that time was taken into our district. After this reorganization the Primghar Community School District contained 53 sections and was evaluated at 4.4 million dollars. In 1961 the district underwent further reorganization, taking in small parts of the former Gaza and Archer school districts. Presently our district includes 63.4 sections of land and has an evaluation of 4.9 million dollars. The tax levy for the current year is 36.79 mills.

In the year 1945 the school district bought two school busses and started bus service for the country students. These two busses were purchased for \$3,076 each. At this time the parents paid the transportation cost. This service was begun as a sort of courtesy movement following the trend in some other towns. This service has increased until at the present time five busses are operated, the cost being shared by the school district and the state. Today the cost of busses is approximately \$5,000 each.

It is interesting to note how the number of students and teachers



View of Industrial Arts Building, built in 1953.

has increased throughout the years. In 1887 there were but two teachers. By 1897 there were 277 students enrolled and the staff included a superintendent and five teachers. Prior to 1900 there were 42 graduated. Of this number only 15 were boys. By 1900 the 42 were occupied thus: 17 teachers, 8 married, 7 in school, 3 clerks, 3 farmers, 1 dentist, 1 book agent, and two were deceased. The only remaining Primghar resident of these is Mrs. Hallie Rerick Rosecrans.

By 1913 the school staff included a Superintendent and nine teachers. The enrollment included 164 in the grades and 67 in high school, for a total of 231, which was somewhat smaller than in 1897.

In the fall of 1962 there were 369 elementary students and 135 high school students for a total enrollment of 504. The teaching staff presently includes thirty persons.

The secondary curriculum of the Primghar Community School at the present time is as follows: Mathematics (general math., alge-

bra, geometry, advanced algebra, elementary analysis, and trigonometry); Social Studies (world history, American history, government, Economics, Psychology, and Sociology) Science (General Science, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, and Health and Physiology), Language (Latin I and II with Spanish to be added in 1963), Vocational Skills (Home Economics I, II, and III, and Industrial Arts I, II, and III), Business Education (Typing I and II, Shorthand, General Business, Bookkeeping, Office Practice, Business Law and Business Arithmetic), English (4 years, including Grammar, Composition, American Literature, English and World Literature), Physical Education I, II, III, and IV, Vocal Music and Band.

The summer program includes Driver Education, Remedial Reading and Summer Recreation. Supt. W. B. Devine is serving his eighth year as a very capable administrator. Present school board members are Bernerd Jons, pres.; Nell Smith, Sidney Cole, Arnold Steuck and Everett Brown.



North view of school showing the most recent addition; a band room and vocal music room are on the ground floor, with new shower and dressing room facilities in the basement.

United States Post Office

The Primghar Post Office has a staff of five regular employees and two substitute Rural Carriers. Mr. O. J. Schoening became Postmaster September 13, 1958 succeeding Mr. L. E. Braunschweig who had been Acting Postmaster since the death of former Postmaster Frank Halbach.

Gaylord Hopkins, Career Clerk, first entered the Postal Service May 2, 1944.

Sidney Gustafson, Sub-Clerk, entered the postal service December 12, 1956 as a Christmas assistant.

Bob McCauley, Rural Carrier, first entered the Postal Service as a clerk, September 1, 1936 and has



United States Post Office in Primghar—1963



1963—Postal employees, left to right: Sid Gustafson, Bernerd Jons, Orville Schoening, Bob McCauley, and Gaylord Hopkins.

continuous service except for Army service during World War II. He transferred to Rural Route No. II on January 14, 1957 which was vacated by Mr. George Breyfogle who had served that route for over forty years. Elmer Mast is substitute carrier for Bob.

Bernerd Jons, Rural Carrier, entered the Postal Service September 11, 1939 and has also had continuous service except for Navy Service during World War II. On October 1, 1959 he transferred to Rural Route No. 1 which was vacated by Joe Vollink who had served this route for forty years. John Oldenkamp is substitute carrier for Bernerd Jons.

The Post Office moved to the present quarters on September 26, 1960. This new structure was built by the State Construction Co. of

Humboldt, Iowa and is owned by Dr. and Mrs. C. M. Woodard also of Humboldt. Previous quarters were in the building now occupied by the Primghar Bakery. Prior to that the Post Office was in the former Jansen Shoe Repair building.

This office is served by three Star Routes that make a return trip so we have six deliveries each day.

Sheldon-Cherokee Star Route 18258 is operated by Burdette Brundage.

Sioux Rapids-Sheldon Star Route 188114 and Cherokee-Sheldon Star Route 18327. The first mail arrives at 6:50 a.m. and the last dispatch is at 5:25 p.m.

The O'Brien County Court House



Primghar has struggled manfully through the years to keep the county courthouse located in the center of the county, and therefore we feel that the courthouse of today deserves special mention and explanation, even though it functions for the entire county.

Most of the employees of the courthouse live in Primghar and thereby become peculiarly ours by neighborhood rights. We present the write-ups of the offices and the employees as they have been given to us.

County Assessor's Office

The duties of the County Assessor are to supervise the assessments of all property in the county which is not otherwise assessed as set out in the Code of Iowa. He is clerk of the County Board of Review.

County Assessor: Wilbur Mills.

Stenographer: Colleen Faas.

County Attorney's Office

The County Attorney prosecutes all crimes committed in the county and defends the county in all actions against it. The County Attorney is the legal advisor of the Board of Supervisors and all other county offices in official matters. No one is eligible who

has not been admitted to the bar.

County Attorney: R. T. Smith.

Stenographer: Mary Bower.

County Auditor's Office

The office of the County Auditor is on the second floor of the courthouse. Corrine Gillespie is Auditor. Gladys Reimann is Deputy and Leona Harries is Clerk.

This office pays claims allowed by the Board of Supervisors, salaries and pay rolls.

Probably more children come to this office than any other office in the courthouse to collect bounty for foxes, crows, gophers, starlings and wolves.

Almost every office issues some

kind of license. This office issues between 2200 and 2300 licenses each year for man's best friend, the dog.

The printing of election ballots is supervised here. This county does not have voting machines so paper ballots are used. After printing, these ballots are counted and put in large envelopes with 75 in each envelope. All supplies and ballots are placed in a large muslin sack which is sealed and not opened until the day of the election. This office tabulates the votes on election night and is clerk of the official canvass made by the Board of Supervisors. In 1890, 2,641 persons voted for Governor in O'Brien County and in 1962, 5,717 persons voted for Governor.

County funds are divided into about 50 funds. The Auditor's Office keeps a ledger account of revenues derived from all sources for each fund and of disbursements made from the various funds.

This office computes taxes on all taxable property in the county from levies made by the Board of Supervisors, town and township officers, school districts and State Tax Commission. Military and Homestead exemptions are credited to the property on the applications allowed by the Board of Supervisors. Agricultural land tax credit is also credited to property eligible for this deduction.

After property has been sold for taxes, redemption certificates are issued whenever the owner wishes to redeem within three years from the date of the sale.

A journal of the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors is kept in this office and is published in the official newspapers of the county for reading by the taxpayers.

Real estate deeds are transferred and plats changed so the record of owners is up to date at all times.

County Clerk's Office

Clerk of the District Court—Ella-may Hoeven

Deputy—Clara Klingaman

The story is told of an old dorky who once opined: "Chickens is de 'durndest creatures—you eats dem befo- dey's bo'n and after dey's daid".

While the office of the Clerk of the District Court does not make official recognition of you until it records your birth record, it is, forever your definite part of your legal existence.

The Clerk of the District Court has charge of all records coming into her office in Probate, Civil, Criminal, Juvenile, Adoption and Mental Health. She attends the sessions of the District Court herself or by deputy, keeps the records, papers, and seal, and records the proceedings of the court, under the direction of the Judge.

She serves on the jury commission to draw jurors for each term of Court. At the beginning of a trial it is her duty to swear in the jurors.

She is also a member of the Board of Commission for Mental Health.

The recording of O'Brien County births and deaths, issuing marriage licenses and recording their return, issuing applications for passports are a few more of her many and interesting duties.

County Engineer's Office

The County Engineer was created by the Acts of the Thirty-fifth General Assembly of Iowa in the year 1913. The first County Engi-

neer in O'Brien County was J. C. Kerrigan who was appointed by the Board of Supervisors on May 22, 1913 and served until September 1, 1922. W. L. Anderson was the second County Engineer and has served since September 1, 1922 to the present date. The County Engineer's office has the following full time employees in addition to the County Engineer: Lloyd H. Borland, Robert D. Craun, Bernice L. Crosser and Donald Steffens.

The County Engineer shall be a registered civil engineer, is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and works under their direction. All construction and maintenance work on the secondary roads of the county shall be performed under the direct and immediate supervision of the County Engineer. As of January 1, 1963, there were 1,035.50 miles of road in the secondary road system in O'Brien County of which 0.96 mile was Unimproved, 83.37 miles were Graded and Drained, 845.24 miles were Graveled, 2.29 miles were Portland Cement Concrete and 103.68 miles were Asphalt concrete.

The O'Brien County Home

by—MAXINE LEMLEY

On October 19, 1887 the County Board of Supervisors secured the deed to a half section of land, namely the north half of section 5, Township 95, range 40, Highland Township, located one and one-half miles east of Primghar. It was purchased for the purpose of a County Home from the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company for the amount of \$1,492.20. When the land was purchased, it was raw prairie, but soon afterward ten acres were planted for a fine grove.

In 1903, the farm land was rented to Homer Davis.

It wasn't until 1913 that the present building was constructed at a cost of \$25,000.00, without a bond levy. A dedication was held on June 25, 1913 when the building was about ten feet above ground level. The corner stone was laid by Judge Scott M. Ladd, Judge of the Supreme Court of Iowa at that time. Between four and five thousand people came to



The O'Brien County Home

the dedication. It was an active gathering from all over the County of O'Brien.

The crowd decided it was an ideal spot for future picnics and gatherings. It was also decided that this county home would develop into more than a mere place where the unfortunate are kept. It would also be a farm that would be among the best in the county. This would work a double purpose. It would give some of the patients that were able, something to help occupy their time, and also would help to support the county home.

At the time the building was built, it was one of the best in the state. The floors, walls and stairways were made of solid concrete, making it fireproof. Due to the wonderful construction, today, fifty years later, it is still considered to be among the better county homes.

Peter Swenson, M. F. McNutt, Ralph C. Jordan, W. C. Jackson and William Strampe were members of the Board of Supervisors during the time the County Home was built. Peter Swenson, chairman, personally donated \$1,000.00 for the installation of the electric lighting plant and equipment.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. McGuire were hired as first Steward and Matron in the new County Home, March 1, 1914.

The old white frame building used before the present building was constructed now was used to house some elderly men. There were two or three other couples that managed this home. In 1915 the old County Home building was moved to the County Sheds and part of it was used to build a house in Northwest Primghar.

Mr. and Mrs. McGuire managed the home until 1937 when Mr. McGuire passed away. Mrs. McGuire

continued until March 1943 when Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jensen took over the management. Eleven years later in March 1955, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Lemley were hired as Steward and Matron and are the present managers. The present Board of Supervisors is Tom Potter, chairman; Leland Bruegman, Don Barry, Wm. Luhrs and Geo. Callenius.

In September, 1958, the old dairy barn burned. It was replaced with a modern milking parlor and loafing shed. An addition was built onto the County Home in 1960 and 1961.

The County Home houses 44 patients. These patients have church services conducted by the ministerial association of the county. Entertainment and treats are furnished by the many generous Women's clubs of the county.

County Recorder's Office

Mr. Roy M. Hughes, County Recorder, assumed his duties on October 30, 1939, and Hallie Cobb became deputy in October, 1943.

It is the duty of the County Recorder to record all legal documents and instruments such as deeds, mortgages, releases, affidavits and miscellaneous items. Chattel mortgages and releases are filed of record unless requested to be recorded.

All military records are kept in the Recorder's Office. This service is free to the public.

Upon being questioned about fishing and fishermen in a certain Arkansas locality, a native replied: "Well!—There's them that fish and them that don't. Them that don't—don't count."

Fortunately, many people share this thinking. Approximately \$14,000.00 is collected by the county each year for Fishing, Hunting

and Trapping Licenses. This sum goes to the State Conservation Commission in its entirety.

O'Brien County Local Board

13-71 Selective Service System

This office is familiar to the male population as the place to go and sign your name when you reach the age of 18. After that you keep the office informed as to your address, marital status, family status, changes in occupation and education achievements.

The Local Board is the basic unit in the Selective Service System. Board members and Government Appeal Agents, and Medical Advisors serve voluntarily without compensation. Presently serving as Local Board members are Mr. Harry Bloodgood, chairman, Paulina; Mr. Ray Brands, Sheldon; and Mr. Robert McCauley, Primghar.

Mr. Selmar Larson, Paullina, and Mr. R. T. Smith, Primghar serve as Government Appeal Agents. Dr. Robert Griffin, Dr. K. W. Myers, Sheldon and Dr. E. B. Getty, Primghar, are Medical Advisors to the Local Board.

Clerical staff is Mrs. Arlyce Ransom, clerk and Mrs. Nadine Parry, intermittent clerk.

Function of the Local Board is to register and classify the manpower of the nation, within the stipulated age groups, deferring in the interest of National health and safety, those who meet the criteria for deferment, and selecting for training and service in the armed forces, those who do not establish grounds for deferment.

County Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff is the principal peace officer of the county. It is his duty to apprehend and arrest criminals, to secure evidence of

the crime committed. He shall summon grand and petit jurors. He shall execute and return all writs and legal processes issued to him by lawful authority. He shall be custodian of the county jail and is responsible for all prisoners committed to him until discharged by law.

He shall on commitments from the Clerk of the District Court, convey convicts to the penitentiary and patients to state hospitals for the mentally ill.

He serves subpoenas and other notices and levies on property when a judgment has been secured.

The County Sheriff's Office personnel in 1963: Howard H. Tiemens, Sheriff; Robert R. Bornholdt, Deputy; Dorothy Merriam, Office Deputy.

County Superintendent of Schools

The office of the county superintendent in Iowa was created by an act of the Iowa General Assembly approved March 12, 1858.

The present county school system was created by an act of the General Assembly and became effective in 1948. It provides for the election of a county board of education and the appointment of a county superintendent by that board and states the duties of each.

There have been 22 county superintendents since the organization of O'Brien County. The first county superintendent was John S. Jenkins, who came into office October 14, 1861.

The longest period of service of the county superintendents of O'Brien County was that of Margaret I. Mann who served from November 1, 1926 to July 31, 1961, a period of about 25 years.



The O'Brien County Jail and Residence of the Sheriff

The present county superintendent, J. W. Brouwer, has served for 12 years.

Other personnel employed by the O'Brien County Board of Education and under the supervision of the county superintendent are the following: Mrs. Dale Craun, administrative assistant; John B. Strack, county art teacher and supervisor; Ruth S. Amundson, supervisor of special education; Jack E. Dye, school psychologist; and Anita Gay Dolan, who has been employed as a speech therapist for the next school year.

The county superintendent of schools is the executive officer of the county school system which functions as an intermediate unit between the local school districts and the State Department of Public Instruction. He serves as secretary and executive officer of the county board of education and acts for that board as custodian of school records, reports, documents and correspondence. He registers teachers certificates in the county, holds various meetings with teachers, makes numerous reports to the State Department of Educa-

tion, administers legal procedures for reorganization of school districts, prepares a budget estimate, serves as a consultant to local school boards and superintendents, visits schools and carries out numerous other duties as prescribed by the school laws of Iowa.

County Treasurer's Office

Tax Dept. Personnel

County Treasurer: Will F. Kaiser.

First Deputy and Chief Accountant: Florence Baker.

Treasurer's Clerk and Assistant Accountant: Lillian Nothdorf.

Motor Vehicle Registration Dept.

Second Deputy and Chief Motor Vehicle Registrar: Joyce Thompson.

Head Motor Vehicle Clerk: Ruby Mills.

Second Motor Vehicle Clerk: Melba Wolf.

Departments

Owing to the fact that Tax Collection, Distribution, and Account-

ing is a distinctly different function than the Registration and titling of Motor Vehicles and Trailers, together with the recording and the release of liens on such vehicles that are purchased by the finance plan, it is imperative that the treasurer's office be divided into two separate departments, and that the people who work in each department specialize in the work of their department.

The tax department has the duty of handling 15,000 individual tax accounts, collecting therefrom approximately \$3,813,578.25. The tax monies are distributed to 38 different funds, each of which receives the proportionate share that corresponds with the number of mills for that fund in the total tax levy. It is essential that people who work in the tax department know a lot about the property holdings of each taxpayer, and are able to avoid confusion between the accounts of taxpayers having the same or similar names. The Tax List as made up by the County Auditor is the Treasurer's Guide Book in these matters, and he is very dependent upon it.

The County's funds are kept in the nine Depository Banks in the county and these banks assist the Treasurer's office considerably in the collection of the taxes.

To maintain control over the vast amounts of public money the Treasurer's Office handles during the year, balances are taken daily, weekly, and monthly, and at the end of each six month period, a Semi-Annual Report is made up for the Auditor and the Board of Supervisors, and this report is published in the official newspapers of the county for the information of the taxpayers and the general public.

The Motor Vehicle Department annually registers 12,165 vehicles, issues 3,841 titles, notes 1,001

liens on titles, releases 1,101 liens that have been satisfied, and transfers many hundreds of individual motor vehicle records between O'Brien and other counties, when people move, or purchase a vehicle outside of this county. Because of the complexity of our own motor vehicle registration laws, and those of other states in the Union, it is absolutely essential that the motor vehicle registrars have a complete working knowledge of all such laws and regulations, and it takes a full year of training and experience to qualify a person for this work. The County Motor Vehicle Department must make daily reports of all of their work to the State Division of Motor Vehicle Registration, and monthly reports to the State Department of Public Safety. All of their daily reports are audited by the State Departments, and any errors found in the audits must be corrected at once.

The money collected by this department, \$409,250.96, is balanced and turned in to the Tax Department daily, where it is allotted to the Motor Vehicle and Use Tax Accounts.

All of the work of both departments is audited annually by State Examiners, and all employees of the Treasurer's Office are heavily bonded, that of the Treasurer being \$10,000, and each of his five subordinates \$2,000.

County Dept. of Social Welfare

The O'Brien County Department of Social Welfare administers State and County assistance programs for O'Brien County. These include the Old Age Assistance, Aid to Dependent Children, Aid to the Blind, Aid to Disabled, and county relief programs. The office personnel is, Mrs. Jean Petersen, Director, who has been on the local staff since November, 1955:

Mrs. Dorothy Hoeven, Caseworker, employed since November, 1954; Luella Behrens, Typist II, employed since December, 1952; and Jean Crowley, Typist I, a part-time employee since July, 1961.

O'Brien County Agricultural Stabilization And Conservation Service (ASCS)

The O'Brien County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) is governed by a three man county committee and forty-eight township committeemen. The committees are elected by farm operators and owners of O'Brien county. The ASC Committees are in charge of local administration of farm programs adopted by Congress. The county committee policies are executed by the county office manager and office staff of seven clerks. Also employed is a four man bin crew and sixty-four part time field employees.

The major programs handled by the O'Brien county office are the feed grain program, agricultural conservation program, price support, grain storage and wool programs.

Soil Conservation Service

The Soil Conservation Service is the Federal Agricultural Agency responsible for the technical part of the USDA program. It provides technical assistance to the Soil Conservation District.

The SCS provides aerial photos that are used in making soil surveys and in helping the farmer develop a conservation farm plan. It gives advice on solving conservation problems. It provides engineering and construction supervision in establishing conservation improvements such as terraces, dams, tile, etc.

The O'Brien County Soil Conservation District is a branch of the government of the State of Iowa. It is responsible for de-



ASCS office staff, left to right: Roger Hubers, Arthur B. Rohwer, office manager; Ann Robinson, Evelyn Longstreet, Dorothy Rohwer, Anita Clark and Kay Pierce. Joy Vellinga was not present when the picture was taken.



The above picture shows Martin Thompson working in a contoured field that was laid out by SCS personnel. This is one type of assistance given to farmers.

termining the conservation needs of the county and developing a program to get the conservation work on the land. Three farmers are elected to direct the District's program.

The Soil Conservation District was organized in 1947. The Soil Conservation Service has provided assistance since 1948. Roger Lathrop was the work unit conservationist from 1948 to 1961. The present staff includes Earl Kizzier, work unit conservationist; Henry Tordoff, soil conservationist; Johnnie Arrick, conservation technician; and Marian Ginger, office assistant. The office is located in the Farm Bureau building in Primghar.

O'Brien County Extension Service

The Cooperative Extension Service in O'Brien County is a branch of Iowa State University and the U. S. D. A. It is governed by the O'Brien County Extension

District, through its Extension Council and by the administration of Iowa State University.

Professional personnel employed by the Extension District to carry out the Extension program consists of an Extension Director, an Extension Home Economist, and an Extension Assistant. The Extension District also employs an office secretary to do the secretarial work.

The purpose of the Cooperative Extension program is to bring to the people of the county research information and other educational help which will be beneficial.

Cooperative Extension work in O'Brien County started in 1918. 4-H club work is supervised by the Extension personnel on a county and state level; at the present time there are over 500 4-H club members in O'Brien County.

The present personnel is John H. Longstreet, Extension Director; Mrs. Ethel Oldaker, Extension Home Economist; Mrs. Donald Davis, Office Secretary.

CHAPTER VIII – Primghar People

The Diamond Age

We usually speak of our senior citizens as the golden age group. Since Primghar is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee—75 years—we are referring to our beloved senior citizens as the Diamond Age group.

We are proud to dedicate a portion of this book to the Diamond Age, older citizens who have in the past years inspired many and contributed much to humanity, and who have added much to the history of Primghar.

The following folks have given their consent for their names and birth dates to be recorded in this book.

Birthdays of Those Ninety Years or More

Mrs. Charlie Hinz—91. May 26, 1872.

Mr. George Mast—95. August 20, 1867.

Mrs. Wm. Reager—95. January 4, 1868.

Mrs. Nick Steffens—92. November 27, 1871.

Mr. Martin Thompson, Sr.—94. April 15, 1869.

Mrs. George Wells, Sr.—90. December 29, 1872.

Birthdays of Those Eighty to Ninety Years

Mr. John Arenz—81. January 28, 1882.

Mrs. Hulda Briggs—82. July 1, 1881.

Mrs. Martha Brinkert—83. January 25, 1880.

Mr. Hugh E. Brown—85. January 22, 1878.

Mr. Andrew Thomas Byers—80. November 15, 1883.

Mrs. Emily Chapman—82. July 21, 1881.

Mrs. Mae Culp—80. March 29, 1883.

Mr. J. S. DeVries—84. January 12, 1879.

Mrs. Bertha Den Hartog—81. August 25, 1882.

Mrs. Bertha Eddington—82. December 4, 1880. She has lived in the Primghar community all her life.

Mrs. Sally Edwards—82. November 17, 1880.

Mr. Albert S. B. Egger—83. January 22, 1880.

Mrs. Lola Ellis—86. January 17, 1877.

Mrs. Peter Haarsma—86. July 16, 1876.

Mr. George Hansen—84. March 26, 1879.

Mrs. Barbara Hardin—80. July 9, 1883.

Mrs. Mayme Hart—80. January 29, 1883.

Mr. James Johnson—82. June 11, 1881.

Mrs. Bessie D. Langley—81. August 9, 1881.

Mr. Ralph E. Langley—82. October 11, 1880.

Mrs. Chris Limke—86. August 4, 1876.

Mrs. George Mast—80. September 12, 1882.

Mrs. Wm. Mattice—82. September 27, 1881.

Mrs. Emil Olander—80. December 25, 1883.

Mrs. D. C. Peck—85. March 12, 1878.

Mrs. Edith Whitner Powell—87. September 3, 1875.

Mrs. Hallie Rosecrans—80. May 15, 1883.

Mrs. Fred Schuester—86. February 4, 1877.

Mr. Clarence I. Smith—82. September 17, 1881.

Mr. John F. Smith—83. January 28, 1880.

Mrs. Lulu M. Stanley—83. July 22, 1880.

Mr. Will Steinbeck—81. June 11, 1882.

Mr. Gus Steuck—80. September 27, 1883.

Miss Edith Van Benthuyssen—89. November 5, 1874.

Mrs. Ida Yeager—83. July 16, 1883.

Birthdays of Those Seventy-Five to Eighty Years

Mr. Martin Anderson—79. March 27, 1884.

Mrs. Olive Albert—77. September 30, 1884.

Mrs. Blanche Albert—77. June 13, 1886.

Mr. John Albert—78. February 4, 1885.

Mrs. John Arenz—77. June 27, 1886.

Mrs. Marie Breyfogle—78. April 20, 1885.

Mr. Charles Breyfogle—79. October 29, 1884.

Mr. John Brink—77. March 4, 1886.

Mrs. Jess Byers—76. November 2, 1887.

Mrs. Ruth Coons—79. November 10, 1884.

Mrs. Chas. Craun—75. September 13, 1887.

Mr. Chas. Craun—76. April 27, 1887.

Miss Lulu Christopher—76. November 18, 1887.

Mrs. Gertrude Emery—78. March 26, 1885.

Mrs. Albert Klink—77. September 12, 1885.

Mr. A. C. Larson—77. August 18, 1886.

Mr. A. C. Larson—77. July 28, 1886.

Mr. Jabe Leroy Martin—79. August 9, 1884.

Miss Margaret A. McCauley—75. May 17, 1888.

Mr. P. S. Montgomery—76. December 26, 1887.

Mrs. Floy Omer—76. October 7, 1887.

Miss Bertha Peck—75. February 2, 1888.

Mr. Edward Pierce—79. February 27, 1884.

Mr. Roy Rembe—79. November 27, 1884.

Mr. Ernest Rembe—75. March 12, 1888.

Mrs. Mavis Rerick—78. November 26, 1885.

Mr. George D. Smith—78. July 16, 1885.

Mrs. Will Steinbeck—79. September 11, 1884.

Mrs. Alma Strand—75. June 7, 1888.

Mrs. Annie Thiesen—79. March 19, 1884.

Mr. Ben Van Heuvelen—76. February 15, 1887.

Mrs. Wm. T. Williams—75. March 19, 1888.

Mr. Wm. T. Williams—78. October 27, 1885.

Mrs. Rudy Year—78. November 17, 1885.

The Golden Years

We are proud to dedicate a portion of this Historical Book to the couples who have celebrated Fifty Years or longer in marriage.

If one were to ask any one of the couples listed here for their recipe of a long, happy wedded life, one perhaps would hear this answer more often than any other. "Happiness of a long married life depends upon making small sacrifices with readiness and cheerfulness, flavored with kind words."

Then in all good humor, some men folks might add that it would help to keep their eyes wide open before marriage, and half shut afterward.

In all seriousness though, who does not admire and respect a couple who have kept their marriage vows holy and sacred?

Yours are the Golden Years. What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined for life—to

strengthen each other in all labor, to rest on each other in all sorrow, and to minister to each other through all pain. You have acquired memories through the past years, and on occasion now have the pleasure of enjoying them together. Golden Memories. Yes, golden memories to treasure till death do you part.

May God's richest blessings continue to be with you and yours.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Langley—62 years. August 27, 1901.

Mr. and Mrs. George Mast—60 years. September 23, 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. John Albert—58 years. February 15, 1905

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. T. Williams—57 years. March 21, 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Breyfogle—56 years. November 16, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Thompson, Sr.—56 years. June 26, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Mattice—55 years. August 26, 1908.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pierce—55 years. October 15, 1907.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kleinheksel—53 years. December 5, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Larson—53 years. February 23, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sheley—53 years. January 26, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Steinbeck—53 years. March 30, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Steuck—53 years. March 30, 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rembe—52 years. February 18, 1911.

Mr. and Mrs. Jess D. Ware—52 years. February 1, 1911.

Mr. and Mrs. George Smith—51 years. March 14, 1912.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Craun—50 years. February 25, 1913.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nelson—50 years. March 1, 1913.

Farm Owned And Operated By The Same Family For 75 Years Or More

Despite the fact that modern Iowa seeks to bring some commercial industries into the small towns of today, agriculture still remains the important work of the area around Primghar. Agriculture is the industry that brings the bread of life to all of us, so that whether we live in town or actually on the farm we remain a part of a farming community.

The pioneers who came were land hungry and were willing to endure great hardships to claim a farm as their own. Once gained, a farm was often handed down in the family, and pride attached to the length of time it could be held. But life has a way of changing circumstances and not many farms of the pioneers are still in the same family. Those farms which have been held in the same family 75 years or more we are glad to report as they have been given to us.

Herman Kleinheksel Farm

The farm in Summit Township owned and operated by Herman Kleinheksel, three miles west of Primghar, was first purchased by Bertel Beyers (now spelled Byers) in the spring of 1888 as 120 acres.

Mr. Beyers was Mrs. Kleinheksel's father. She was born on the place and has never lived anywhere else. Upon Mr. Beyers death the farm was divided among the three children and Mrs. Kleinheksel received the forty acres with the buildings which they still own and operate.

The H. O. Smith Farm

This farm is one mile east of Primghar and has been in the same family since 1888. It is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Steinbeck and son Dan. Mrs. Stein-

beck is a granddaughter of H. O. Smith and Dan is a great grandson, making the fourth generation on the farm.

The Johnson Farm

The Johnson family, now headed by Chas. and W. H. Johnson, were among the earliest settlers of O'Brien County and still live on land acquired prior to the time Primghar was incorporated.

George Johnson, grandfather of Chas. and Bill, homesteaded on the Southeast Quarter of Section 32 in Highland Twp., south of what is now Gaza. At that time, the only settlement was a store and a few houses at a place called Old O'Brien north of Cherokee. The only way to get supplies was to either walk or take a team of oxen and make a 50 mile round trip which would take two days at least. It was not uncommon in those early days for a man to walk to Old O'Brien and carry the family groceries home on his back. The Johnson family plowed some of the first prairie sod in Highland Twp. with ox teams. Speaking of whiskers—in those early years, if we saw one of our older men clean shaven we would hardly know him.

Robert Johnson, Chas. and Bill's father, acquired 400 acres of Highland Twp. land in his lifetime. He homesteaded south of Gaza in 1870 and later, about 1888, acquired the farms southeast of Primghar. Chas. and his wife Lilla and son, Bud, still live on one of these farms. Their daughter and family, the Rodney Hughes, live on another of these farms, which is owned by W. H. Johnson. Chas.'s son Bud, is operating the two farms three miles southeast of Primghar—which makes the 3rd generation to operate these particular farms and the 4th generation of Highland Twp. farmers.

Wm. H. McCauley to Elmer Lake Farm in Highland Township

The SE½ of the NE¼ of Section 16, Township 95, Range 40 N in O'Brien County was purchased by Wm. H. McCauley from Wm. Hamblin on October 31, 1885. It was naked prairie then. The first buildings consisted of a small barn, a granary, and a four room house.

There were no roads through the territory at that time and no railroad. People drove teams and wagons on trails from one place to another. The nearest railroad town was Cherokee.

Mr. Wm. McCauley married in 1886 and he and his bride took up residency on the farm he purchased and raised their family. They resided here until March of 1916 when they moved to Primghar and their son, Wm. McCauley, moved to the farm and continued occupancy until March of 1926. At that time a daughter Lillian and her husband, Elmer Lake, took residency and still occupy the farm, which they have owned since 1935.

Irvine Farm in Highland Township

John H. Irvine was born in Lisanaskea County of Fermanagh, in Ireland and came to this country as a young man, at first working in Wisconsin and Illinois. On February 25, 1888, he and Grace Hay were married and came to O'Brien County, Iowa, at first living for a few months in Grant Township. On June 6, 1888 they bought the farm two miles east and three-fourths mile south of Primghar in Highland Township from Albert Jacobs. When they went to town they went across country from the Shirey place (now Herb Bilsland's) to Primghar—no roads.

A daughter Mary and two sons, Tom and Andy, were born on this

farm. In 1915 Mr. and Mrs. Irvine moved to Primghar. The sons worked the farm together about three years and then Andy moved to Minnesota.

Tom and May Ward (daughter of George and Amy Ward who gave Ward Memorial Hospital to the town) were married in 1917 and lived on the farm. Two sons, Ward and Roger, and a daughter, Donna, were born to them. Tom and his wife lived on the farm and worked the land until 1947 when they moved to Primghar, and Ward and Roger worked the farm land a few years. In 1951 Roger moved to Arizona and Ward and family have been on the farm since. Thus three generations have been on the same farm and still own and operate it.

Klink Land In Dale Township

Typical of the farms which have been in the same family more than 75 years is the Klink land in Dale Township. Mr. and Mrs. John Klink, Sr. came in 1885 from Tania County by immigrant train, bringing with them their five boys, the youngest being three years old. They had already secured their land by trading the land they held near Gladbrook for five quarter sections in O'Brien County, south and west of Primghar, all of Section 9 and one quarter in Section 10 of Dale Township. Not much of the land was broke then, and not much could be farmed because it was slough. They farmed the "high places". The oldest boy of the family, William Klink, did a lot of the sod breaking. The other boys were John Jr., August, Albert and Adolph. All are now deceased.

John Klink Sr. was director of the district school and a township trustee. The trees that John Klink planted were willow, box elder, cottonwood and some ash. Some of the same trees are still on the farm home. For two years after

they came they still branded their cattle—no fences to keep them from other farms. They raised wheat and oats and some rye. Later corn became the big crop.

When William Klink was married in 1893 he took over the original home and Mr. and Mrs. John Klink Sr. built a home on the quarter section where Harold Klink, son of Albert Klink now lives. Wm. Klink and his wife raised four daughters and one son. They are Marie, Mrs. Ward Webb; Mrs. Rose Webb; Mrs. Alma Horstmann; and Johnny Klink all of Primghar. A daughter Fern died as a young lady. Wm. Klink did his banking in Primghar and became a director of the Primghar Savings Bank. He also served as a director of the Farmers Elevator when it was a business concern of the town, was a school director and a trustee of the township. When Mrs. Dorothy Brown, daughter of Mrs. Rose Webb served on the election Board in Dale Township it was the fourth generation of the Klink family to serve in such office.

John Klink Sr. died in 1896 and his wife farmed until Albert was married. Then she moved to Primghar where she raised the two motherless daughters of John Klink Jr. They were Mrs. Mable Vollink and Mrs. Alice Luhrs who died in 1937. Mrs. John Klink Sr. died in 1930.

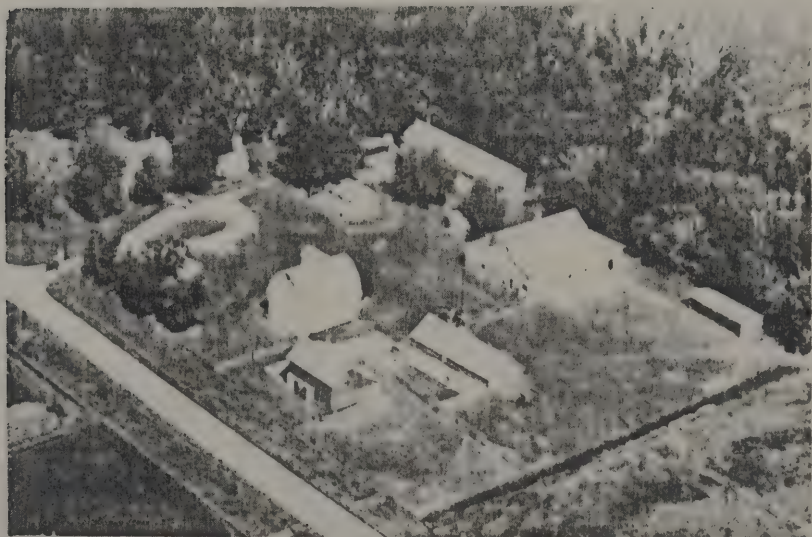
When Mrs. John Klink Sr. left the farm it was taken over by Albert Klink and it was passed to his son Harold Klink who still owns and operates it. The other children of Albert Klink and his wife were Ruth, Mrs. Lloyd Borland and Gladys, Mrs. Leo Reimann, both of Primghar and Viola, Mrs. Lee Lasher of Michigan.

The other quarters of the Klink land went to John Klink Jr., August Klink and Adolph Klink, but

THE SAME FARM - 1890 AND 1963



Above picture was taken in 1890. In the foreground, Albert, Adolph, Mr. and Mrs. John Klink Sr., August, William and John. In background are hired hands.



This picture is the same farm, now occupied by Johnny Klink, and his sister, Mrs. Clyde Webb, great grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. John Klink, Sr. The barn in foreground is the same as the one to the right in the old picture, but has been moved.

that land is not now in the Klink family.

Fred Steuck Farm In Center Twp.

Frederick Steuck bought a farm in Center Township on November 27, 1883. His son William Steuck acquired the farm in 1937 and still

owns it, but his son Arnold farms the place and lives there.

Gus Steuck Farm In Center Twp.

Gus Steuck owns twenty acres of the old family farm in Center Township which he and his son Elmer farm. This land has belonged to the Steuck family since 1883.

HONORED PEOPLE

Primghar is proud of the many citizens who have gone out from our small town and have done such good work that many honors have come to them. In many fields you will find the names of Primghar people who have contributed to the progress of some community, state, or nation.

Naturally we feel that Primghar has a longer list of such honored people than many towns of like size. We also feel that these people have contributed to our history by carrying the home town name with them to their high places.

We present the names of those who have had special honors conferred upon them. The list is not necessarily complete. It contains only the names of those known to us or reported to us by friends.

IMA CHAMBERS



Ima Chambers has the distinction of finishing Primghar High

School in three and one-half years, graduating in 1918. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Chambers who lived east of Primghar in the early years. Her brother Alfred lives on one of their farms.

It would not be amiss to state that most of Ima's life has been spent in the school room. After high school Ima's education continued at Gates Business College in Waterloo and at Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls. Between years at college she was in classrooms as a teacher at Dickens, Primghar, and Humboldt. She received her Master of Science degree in Business in 1942 from Denver University and again entered the field of teaching high school at Flushing and Flint, Michigan, and in night school in the Junior College and in General Motors Technical Institute in Flint. In 1946 she went to Central Michigan University where she

became Associate Professor in 1955.

Through all her years of professional work she has been most interested in the education of teachers and has completed fifty hours of advanced study beyond her Master's Degree in this field. These hours have been taken at the University of Michigan, Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, California, and New York University. In the summer of 1950 she studied business education in western Europe while serving as a delegate to the International Business Education Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. She was also a delegate to the Conference of the same association when it was held in New York City in 1952.

Ima is active in many organizations. While teaching in Primghar she was Worthy Matron of the Order of Eastern Star. She assisted in organizing Eta Chapter of Delta Phi Epsilon, an honorary graduate fraternity in business education at Denver University and transferred her membership to Kappa Chapter at the University of Michigan, where she has served as vice-president and president. She has also served as board member, vice-president, and president (1962-63) of the Michigan Business Education Association, which has a membership of about 1,500 business teachers. She takes an active part in North Central Business Association, National Business Education Association, International Society for Business Teacher Education, the Michigan Association for Higher Education, Kappa Delta Pi and Pi Omega Pi.

Ima has contributed articles to the Business Education Forum, the American Business Education, the Journal of Business Education and has given numerous talks before business teacher groups.

Ima thinks the most outstanding honor which has come to her was the reception of the Outstanding Teacher Award, presented on Teachers Day at the Michigan State Fair on August 31, 1962. She is listed in Who's Who in American Education.

RAYMOND F. CHRISTOPHER

Raymond F. Christopher, son of a pioneer family, was born on a farm four miles north of Primghar and attended school here until his third year in high school when his family moved to Storm Lake. He is a brother of Lulu Christopher of Primghar.

He attended Buena Vista College and in 1921 became associated with the Sun Electric Corporation, distributors of Automotive Service Equipment, as one of the original salesmen. By 1937 he had secured the approval of Sun equipment by all the major automobile, truck, and tractor manufacturers except Ford Motor Co., which he secured in 1948.

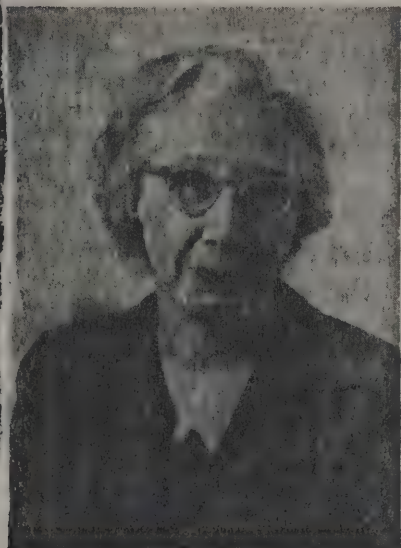
In 1938 Ray was made Regional Sales Manager for nine western states. In 1946 he was transferred to Chicago and made Vice President, Director of Sales Promotion and Advertising. In 1951 he organized the Export Division and foreign operations have rapidly expanded in South America and South Africa. He has served his company thirty-nine years.

Ray also served in the U. S. Army for World War I and is a member of the American Legion at Des Plaines, Illinois, where he and his wife, the former Ruth Melvin of Sanborn, live.

BERTHA FRITZSCHE

Bertha M. Fritzsche graduated from Primghar High School in 1918. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fritzsche who

farmed northwest of Primghar. Donald Fritzsche, a nephew, now lives on the home place. In 1922 she received her B. S. Degree and in 1929 her M. S. Degree from Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. In 1950 she received her P.H.D. from Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.



Miss Fritzsche taught home economics in the high school at Humboldt, Iowa, 1922-25 and at Savannah, Missouri, 1925-28. She was head of the Department of Home Economics at Graceland College, Lamoni, Iowa 1928-29, and she went to the University of Southern Mississippi at Hattiesburg, Miss., in 1929. She had charge of Teachers Education 1929-37 and was Dean of Women from 1933-37. Since 1937 she has been Chairman of the Division of Home Economics.

She was president of the Mississippi Home Economics Association 1937-39, president of Mississippi American Association of University Women (AAUW) 1927-39 and Delta Kappa Gamma-Zeta State President 1955-57. She is chairman of Research Committee,

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Among the many honors coming to her are: Membership in Omicron Nu (Honorary Home Economics), Pi Lambda Theta (Honorary Educational Sorority). She has been written-up in Who's Who of American Women; and Who's Who in American Education.

Bertha is a member of the Main Street Methodist Church, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, the Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter No. 241, at Primghar, Iowa, Treasurer Fanest County Safety Council 1961-63, and Fanest County Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation, University Chairman, 1962-63.

She has traveled extensively in United States, Mexico and Europe.

JOSEPH HERMAN HALBACH



Joseph Herman Halbach was born March 26, 1892, on the Halbach homestead between Peterson and Cherokee. When a small child he came with his parents to

a farm northwest of Primghar, in Summit township.

He graduated from Primghar High School in 1909.

He married Loretta Cassidy and they farmed southwest of town until 1924 when Joe bought out C. D. Burke and in partnership with Vincent Cassidy, operated the Cassidy and Halbach Hardware in Primghar and they handled John Deere implements. Later Joe took over the implement part of the business.

The Halbachs have two daughters, Jeanette, Sister M. Joseph Adele at Huntington, Indiana, and Mary Jocelyn, Mrs. Don Rufflo, Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Joe was mayor of Primghar for twenty-four years and was serving in that office when he died April 9, 1956.

WILLIAM HOLT

William Holt was born in Primghar and graduated from high school here.

Judge Holt is a member of the three man national commission on Indian affairs.

He and his sister Vera live in a suburb of Washington, D. C.

MRS. CLARK HUGHES

Nominee for Mother of Year 1963

Mrs. Clark Hughes of Primghar was nominated Mother of the Year, 1963, by a group of her friends and neighbors named The Dale Daisies. Mrs. Hughes represented the county in the listing of sixty-eight women who had been nominated for the 1963 Iowa Mother of the Year.

Mrs. Hughes is very community minded. She has assisted in many organizations throughout her life time in the county. She is the

mother of seven children, four sons and three daughters, and she has twenty grandchildren. The four sons served in World War II.



Although Mrs. Hughes was not chosen to represent Iowa at New York in May, the Des Moines Register decided to do something for the other entrants and they chose seven mothers of the group to represent the seven districts of Iowa. Mrs. Hughes was chosen to represent the Northwest District.

On April 4, 1963, the Des Moines Register feature reporter, Mr. Nick Lamberto and Mr. Dick Swanson, photographer, flew to Primghar to interview Mrs. Hughes and her family.

The pictures and stories of the seven mothers were a special feature of the Mother's Day issue of the Des Moines Register May 12, 1963.

Mrs. Hughes, along with all the Mothers of the Year entries, was invited to Ames for a two day convention, April 20 and 21, 1963. A planned program included a

"Merit Award" presented to her by Mrs. Oscar Lybeck, President of the Association of the Mother of the Year.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Hughes reside on a farm one and a half miles southwest of Primghar.

ROBERT J. JENSEN



Robert J. Jensen graduated from Primghar High School in the year of 1953. During his junior year he received the history award. Upon graduation he achieved the distinction of valedictorian. Following graduation he enrolled in the National Institute of Dry Cleaners and Launderers and after completing this course he enrolled briefly in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Late fall of 1953 he enrolled at the State University of Iowa. In the winter of 1954 he enlisted in the United States Navy. After eight weeks of "Boot Camp" he achieved the title "Honor Man" of his company and

was chosen for enrollment with the Naval Intelligence school in Bainbridge, New Jersey. This was his beginning in association with the Naval Intelligence Linguist Department. After acquiring the language and culture of the German people and a brief Naval Se-

curity course in Washington, D.C., he was sent to Bremerhaven, Germany. After three years in Germany he returned to the United States and was enrolled for one year in a Naval linguist school in Monterey, California. While here he studied the Polish language. This led to three years in the Philippine Islands where he was stationed at San Maguil. At the end of these three years he was transferred to the United States Naval Base at Pensacola, Florida. After a six-month stay in Florida he was transferred to Fort Mead, Maryland. With nine years of military service he has attained the rank of Chief Petty Officer. He is in intelligence division and his service rank is highly classified.

RUTH LANGLEY JUSTUS



Ruth Langley Justus (Mrs. Roy) graduated from Primghar High School in 1921. She was graduated from Morningside College in 1925 and taught three years at Lawton, Iowa.

Ruth teaches calligraphy (chancery cursive writing) at Minneapolis School of Art. She is a member of the American Association of University Women.

With her husband, Roy Justus, a cartoonist on the Minneapolis Star Journal, she has toured Eur-

ope twice. They live in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

DANIEL KRUMM



Daniel Krumm graduated from Primghar High School in 1944. He served as pharmacist-mate in the navy. Daniel took a business course at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, specializing in marketing research. He received his A. B. Degree from the University of Iowa in 1950.

He was employed by Northwest Airlines at Minneapolis, Minnesota. At Ann Arbor, Michigan, he was with the Maytag Company and for eleven years he was at Newton, Iowa, employed by the Maytag Company.

Daniel is now president of Maytag European serving free Europe and lives in Brussels, Belgium.

He has a wife and two small sons.

ROBERT LATHROP

Doctor Robert Lathrop graduated from Primghar High School in 1949.

He received his B. S. Degree from Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa, in 1953 and his M. S. in 1954. He received his P.H.D. in the field of Education in 1957.

Robert is an associate professor at the University of Minnesota and is doing research work and teaching. He is doing special work in tests and measurement in educational psychology.



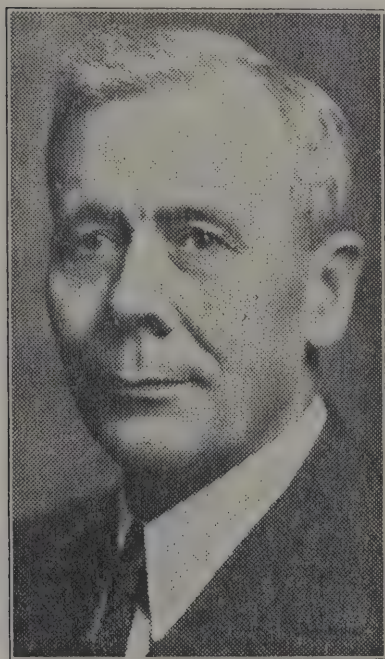
In the fall of 1963 he moves to State College, State College, Pennsylvania, and will do work in the same field.

He is married to the former Colleen Mast, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charley Mast of Primghar, and they have two children.

ROSCOE JANVRIN LOCKE

Roscoe Janvrin Locke was born June 16, 1877, at Dover, New Hampshire. He was educated at Rockport, Missouri, and later graduated from the State University of Nebraska with a degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1901. He came to northwestern Iowa where he taught school in the winter and worked on the farm in the sum-

mer. After graduation he practiced law in Sutherland, Iowa, until the Spring of 1906 when he moved to Primghar. Shortly afterward, he was elected County Attorney and he was re-elected to that position four times. He practiced law in Primghar for a number of years. Mr. Leo Lampman was a partner and later R. T. Smith joined the firm. Mr. Locke left the firm in 1950 but still retained his right to practice law. As mayor and president of the school board he was a conspicuous figure in the civic life of the community.



A hobby which Mr. Locke thoroughly enjoyed was writing poetry. He belonged to several poetry associations and won many honors for his poems. Mr. Locke published two volumes - "Strangers" and "Poems."

In 1953 the Lockes moved to Sutherland where he now resides. One of his favorite poems follows:

GITTIN OLD

He's gittin old, the clock is surely
 runnin' down
 When a feller loses interest in
 the kids about the town.
 A number got together on Thompson's
 lot today
 And I was sittin there a-wa'chin
 them at play,
 And several spoke to me and called
 me by my name
 But I didn't know a one a-playin
 in that game.

Well I pretended knowin them all
 right you see,
 For it made me sort of happy like
 that they knew me.
 There was a time I knew most all
 the girls and boys
 And all about their dogs and
 sleds and other toys,
 But now it seems I can't keep
 track of them no more
 The same as once I could in good
 old days of yore.

And when I mosied slowly down
 the quiet street
 I whispered low, "You bet, old
 age has got me beat".

FERN DE VRIES

(Mrs. Trevor F. Moore)

Fern DeVries Moore is a graduate of Primghar High School.

She earned her A. B. Degree at the University of Iowa, at Iowa City in three and one half years, graduating one of the five highest from the University in mid-year 1932. She has her M. A. Degree from the University of Iowa, and has done advanced work at the University of Minnesota and the National University of Mexico.

Fern taught English in high school for several years, and after doing advanced work she taught in West Texas State College, Canyon, Texas, a year and a summer.

She was sent to Tokyo, Japan

as Assistant Education Officer, Military Government Team in 1948-50 during the military government occupation in Japan.

She has toured Europe and traveled extensively while in Japan. She lived in Germany while her husband was stationed there and had an opportunity to see much of Europe.

MRS. EMIL OLANDER

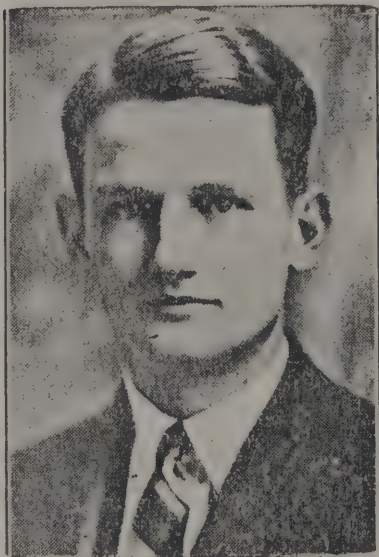
Nellie Olander (Mrs. Emil) was initiated into Primghar Chapter No. 241 Order of the Eastern Star in Primghar, Iowa, in 1911.

She was installed as Worthy Grand Matron, Order of Eastern Star, of Iowa, in Sioux City in October 1930 and presided over the fifty-fourth Annual Session of the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in October, 1931 at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

On December 10, 1961 Primghar

Chapter No 241 Order of the Eastern Star, honored her with a party celebrating her fifty years as a member of the order.

CARL W. PETERSON



Above picture was taken when Mrs. Olander was honored by the Primghar Chapter No. 241 Order of Eastern Star for her fifty years as a member of that order. Pictured with her is her husband, Emil.

Carl W. Peterson graduated from Primghar High School in 1920. He received his degree in Mechanical Engineering from Iowa State University in 1924.

He is Executive Vice-President of Dodge Manufacturing Corporation, Mishawaka, Indiana.

Carl is very active in civic affairs and does a great deal of church work. He has been named man of the year of Mishawaka.

He is married and has two sons and two daughters.

PRIMGHAR RIFLE CLUB



July 29, 1930—Primghar Rifle Club, back row left to right: Don Nicholson living in Primghar; Hervey Strand, died 1940; Johnnie Klink living on his farm southwest of Primghar. Front row: Vere Hamer, Pipestone, Minn.; Ralph Klink, Leggett, California.

The Primghar Rifle Club was organized in 1926 and disbanded during World War II. The Primghar Rifle Club had from one to five members on the Iowa Civilian Rifle team at the National Rifle

Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio every year from 1928 to 1940.



Pictured above: Vere Hamer of Primghar Rifle Club shown with the medals he won as U. S. Champion.

Vere Hamer was one of the outstanding members of this club. He is one of the few who hold the national award of the Distinguished Rifleman Medal. He was Small-bore U. S. Champion for three years. In 1931 he was a member of the Pershing Trophy Team. The members of this U. S. team shot matches at Bisley, England. His exceptional marksmanship was cited in securing his commission when he entered the Army in 1942.

The Primghar Rifle Club was pretty near the whole thing on the Iowa State rifle team that attended the national meet at Camp Perry, Ohio, in 1930, for five of the twelve members from the local club, who went to Fort Des Moines, July 29th to attend the State rifle shoot and civilian team try-out went to Camp Perry, Ohio.

This was an unusual incident, for it is rare that any club gets more than one man on the state

team, and this is the most members ever to be selected from one Iowa team. The Primghar team had fifteen members, and hence one third of them placed on the State team.

Johnnie Klink was a member of the Iowa Civilian Team six years, acting as Captain two years. Donald Nicholson was a member of the Iowa team one year; Shirley Strand, three years; Hervey Strand, three years; Ralph Klink, two years; William Webb, two years; and Vere Hamer, three years from Primghar and he was a member of the Minnesota team a number of years. The individual members and the team won many trophies and gold medals for their outstanding marksmanship.

BEATA REAGER

Beata Reager was graduated from Primghar High School in 1915 and received her B. S. Degree from Iowa State University, Ames, in 1921 and her M. S. Degree in 1929, also from Ames. She has done graduate work at the University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, Iowa Wesleyan at Mt. Pleasant and at Drake University in Des Moines.

Beata was Assistant Food Supervisor at the Memorial Union, Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa, and part time instructor in the Institution Management Department at the Iowa State University.

For eleven years she was Chief Dietitian at the Mental Health Institutes at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and Cherokee, Iowa. Beata was Director of Dietary Service for the Board of Control, State Institutions, Des Moines, Iowa.

Miss Reager has retired and makes her home with her mother, Mrs. William Reager of Primghar, Iowa.

She has traveled in United States, Canada, Mexico and toured Hawaii.

MRS. WILLIAM REAGER

Mrs. William Reager, 95, came to O'Brien County from Illinois in 1899 and settled with her husband and family on the farm which they purchased in Dale Township, now owned by the son Henry.

She worked in the Farmers Institute which was an active organization at that time and she was president of the Women's Division. She was active in Farm Bureau work and was selected Outstanding Farm Woman of Northwest Iowa. Mr. Rex Yockey was county agent at that time. Mrs. Reager and her daughter, Beata, organized the first Girls 4-H club (Dale Township) in O'Brien County and she has been chosen one of the first honorary members of the 4-H Club.

HALLIE C. ROSECRANS

Hallie C. Rerick Rosecrans, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rerick, was born in Primghar, Iowa, May 15, 1883.

She graduated from Primghar High School, finished Grinnell College in 1904, and taught school for three years.

Hallie was married to Earl A. Rosecrans October 9, 1907. Their four children are: Earleen, Mrs. Edward J. Kay of Los Angeles, California; Gordon R. of Primghar, Iowa. President of the Rerick Abstract Company; Dana Jean Dyer, Honolulu, Hawaii; and Kathleen Surette of Primghar. She has four grandchildren.

Mrs. Rosecrans has lived in Primghar all of her life and has the distinction of being the oldest continuous resident of the community.

She has one sister, Dana Rerick, who also makes her home in Primghar.

ETHEL SHEARER



Ethel Shearer was born in Ontario, Canada, and came to the United States when a small child settling with her family on a tract of prairie land in Dale Township, O'Brien County.

She received her education in the Primghar School and Morning-side College, Sioux City, Iowa. Soon after 1910 she came to Primghar as a primary teacher and taught here until she retired in 1935. She was beloved by all who knew her.

She was a member of the Eastern Star Chapter No. 241, Primghar, Iowa, and an active member of the Congregational Church to which she contributed generously of her means.

She died in Los Angeles, California, April 19, 1955.

MRS. LUCY C. DELAND SLACK



Mrs. Lucy C. Deland Slack made the flag that was flown at the first Fourth of July celebration at Old O'Brien in 1868. Her picture and the flag are in the Assembly Room in the Court House at Primghar.

Her husband planted the trees in the Court House square when it was first given to the county by William Clark Green and James Roberts in 1872.

MRS. PAULINE STEFFENS

Mrs. Pauline Sohn Steffens was born at Dubuque, Iowa, November 27, 1871. When she was nine years old she came with her parents to a homestead near Sutherland. It was all virgin prairie land and there was no Calumet, Sutherland, Primghar, or Archer then.

On October 19, 1890, Pauline Sohn was married to Nick Steffens in Sheldon and the couple homesteaded near Sutherland. They had twelve children, and four girls and four boys are still liv-

ing. Mr. and Mrs. Steffens celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1940.



Their son Claus died of Pneumonia in a hospital in London, England, during World War I. Mrs. Pauline Steffens is the only surviving gold star mother of World War I in O'Brien County. She is very proud of her ninety-two years.

FRED H. STEUCK



Fred H. Steuck received his B. S. degree in Electrical Engineering

in 1937 from the Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. He was elected to Tau Beta Pi, honorary engineering fraternity at Ames in 1937.

From late 1938 to August 1942 he was manager of the O'Brien County Rural Electric Cooperative and was then called into the navy as an instructor in mathematics at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

He is professor of Electronic Engineering, California State Polytechnic College, San Luis Obispo, California. He is teaching Electronic Engineering subjects and assisting in the administration of the Department of Electronic Engineering. He is one of seven Engineering Division representatives to the College Faculty Council and one of five members of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee reporting to the Faculty Council.

California State Polytechnic College has the largest engineering enrollment of any of the California State Colleges, and the Electronic Engineering Department with an enrollment of five hundred students is the largest department in the Engineering Division.

MRS. HERMAN VAN LEEUWEN

Mrs. Herman Van Leeuwen (Mickie) was born Madge Coons of Ireton, Iowa, and came to Primghar in 1937 with her husband.

She takes an active part in community affairs and leads a busy life. Mickie works in the Woman's Club, is a past president and has been chairman of various divisions in the club. For years she has been eighth district publicity chairman of the Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs. She has served on the board for the Community Chest, writes a column entitled "Mere Murmurs" in the O'Brien County Bell, and is a Sunday School teacher. She is also the bookkeeper for her husband's welding and machine

shop and finds time for another of her hobbies—oil painting.



In 1961 Mrs. Van Leeuwen published a book of poems entitled "Mere Murmurings". Among the recognitions for her work were two poems "Dear Lord" and "Life" selected for inclusion in "Poets of America". One of her poems was exhibited at the New York World's Fair and received special commendations from the committee on selection. It was published in "State Poet Laureates", selected poems from the fair. Several of her poems have been published in magazines and read over the radio. Because of her column written in the O'Brien County Bell she has been awarded a certificate by the Press Columnists of Iowa, presented to her by the Des Moines Register and Tribune which entitles her to all courtesies extended to members of the press columnists.

At the present time Mickie is busy writing a novel.

One of her favorite poems follows:

WATCHING AND WAITING

I watched the petals fall today
From off the red rose near by,
Their silent flurry to the ground
meant
That soon, to summer we must say
goodbye.

I watched flocks of birds gathering
in
In a wooded grove near by;
Then I knew fall was ending
And flakes of snow would soon
fly.

Every year as I am privileged to
watch
The four seasons come and go;
As I wait; I ask, without an answer
How many more will I know?

Just as the birds are winged away
And the roses fade and die,
I, too, will pass like the seasons,
Someday to you I will whisper
goodbye.

GEORGE W. WARD AND AMY WARD



George W. Ward left Illinois when he was twenty-seven years of age and settled three miles south of Primghar, in Dale township, O'Brien County, where he bought the eastern half of section 24. By hard work and application to his agricultural interests, he added to his land holdings until he became one of the wealthiest men of his township.

Mr. Ward was married in November, 1893, to Amy Hatch. They

had two daughters, May, Mrs. Thomas Irvine of Primghar, Iowa; and Lois, Mrs. Elmer Hirsch, of Chicago, Illinois, now deceased. The Ward family were members of the Congregational Church. For many years Mr. Ward was an important factor in the civic and educational life of the community and always stood high in the estimation of his fellow citizens.

A generous act on the part of Mr. Ward and his wife, Amy, and one which earned the commendation of their fellow citizens generally, was their donation to the county of what was known as the O'Brien County Hospital, and which was to be maintained by the county. Any doctor in the county had the privilege of bringing patients to the hospital for treatment.

At present it belongs to the town of Primghar and is known as Ward Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. George Ward—Amy, died February, 1935.

George W. Ward died, March, 1946.

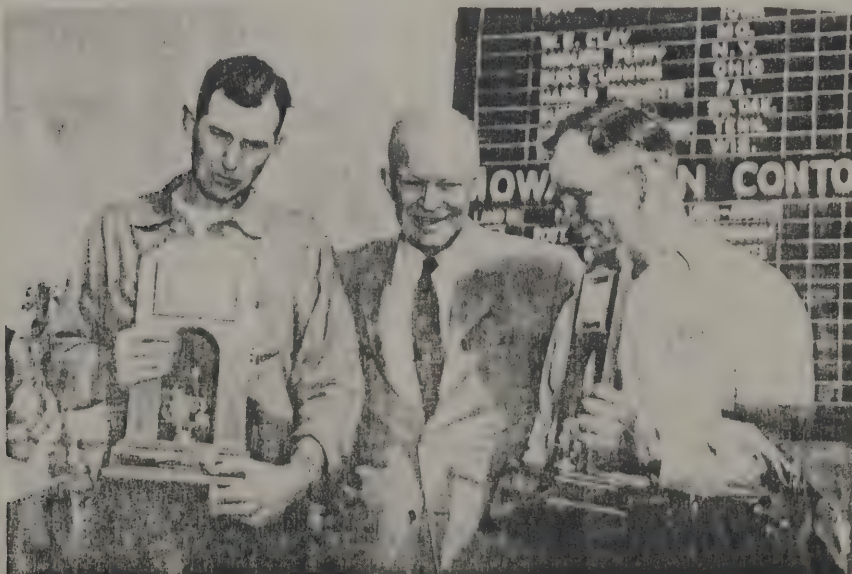
DONALD WITTROCK

Contour Plowing Champion of Iowa for 1956

In the fall of 1956 Don Wittrock decided to enter the plowing matches of the State. The district competition was held in Harris, Iowa and he won in the contour division.

This entitled him to enter the State Plowing Matches, September 21, near Colfax, Iowa. It was there that Don won the State Contour Championship. Indeed it was a proud and thrilling moment when President Eisenhower shook his hand, congratulated him and presented Don with the trophy.

The following day Don plowed in the National matches with thir-



Don Wittrock, right; receives trophy and congratulations from President Dwight D. Eisenhower.



Don Wittrock shown above in front of a corn crib on his farm that was decorated by neighbors and friends before his arrival home from the contest.

teen other contestants and placed fourth in this contest.

In defending his championship in 1957 near Hampton, Iowa, Don placed second. He participated in matches in 1960 and 1961 when he placed in the top five.

An important occasion in Don's life was the "Donald Wittrock Day" held in Primghar September 29, 1956 honoring his State Championship. Congressman Chas. B. Hoeven was the featured speaker. The Primghar Chamber of Commerce presented Don a plaque for his achievement.

Donald and his wife, Arlene lives on a farm north of town with their five children, four boys and one girl.

FRED B. WOLF

Fred Wolf was born on a farm near Sanborn. He helped his father on the Sanborn Pioneer and



later on the O'Brien County Bell at Primghar.

He was in the employ of the

Redpath Vawter Lyceum of Cedar Rapids and through his efforts Primghar had one of the best lyceum courses in the northwest and became known as the best lyceum town of its size west of Chicago.

Fred ran the Bell a few years after the death of his father, J. H. Wolf. He was known throughout the state as a fine newspaper man. His twin brother, Will, owned the Hawarden paper. He died November 6, 1944.

GLADYS CATHERINE AVERY
(Mrs. Ferdinand R. Zinn)



Gladys Avery Zinn was born in Irwin, Iowa, and came to Primghar, Iowa in 1907 with her parents Dr. and Mrs. Milo Avery. She graduated from Primghar High School in 1917 and she received her A. B. degree from the State University of Iowa, at Iowa City, in June 1921. She has done advanced work in education at the University of Iowa and at Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, Iowa. Miss Avery taught in various high schools in the State.

Writing is a hobby of hers and she uses Gladys Catherine Avery, also Catherine Farrell as her pen names.

Her poem "To A Rose" won high honors at the California Tournament of Roses at Pasadena in 1939 along with Edgar Lee Masters, Robert Frost, and Edwin Markham. One of her poems "Dusk" was exhibited in "Iowana", the Iowa poetry exhibit at the New York World's Fair and received international commendation. She has had several poems printed in magazines and read over the radio.

Gladys Catherine Avery is a member of the Des Moines Branch of the National League of American Pen Women, the Iowa Poetry Society and she has been cited for Who's Who In American Contemporary Poetry. Lifetime honorary memberships have been conferred upon her by the Mark Twain Society (International) and Eugene Field Society (American Writers). She has published two volumes of poems:

"Thoughts by the Wayside"—1944.

"Along Life's Way"—1949.

She is married to Ferdinand R. Zinn and makes her home in Primghar.

One of her poems follows:

DUSK

There's a time between sundown
and twilight
When the light begins to fade;
And the very air seems mellow
With that lovely golden shade.

'Tis then I love to wander
Along the road or by a stream;
Beauties without number—
The World with loveliness does
teem.

Shadowy reflections in the water,
Pastel clouds within the sky.
The trees, the grass, the fence, the
road
Seem covered by a magic spell—
and why?

The night has come—gone is the
day
And nature in her all-protecting
way
Drops her mantle and steals away
All your thoughts of yesterday.

Man Of The Year

Dr. W. C. Bolender

Dr. E. B. Getty

Art Anderson

In 1958 the Chamber of Commerce voted to choose one man each year to honor as a Primghar citizen who had given outstanding service to the community.

Dr. W. C. Bolender was the first man unanimously chosen, and a dinner was given in his honor on April 23, 1958 in the Methodist Church with V. D. Peck as master of ceremonies.

At that time Dr. Bolender had

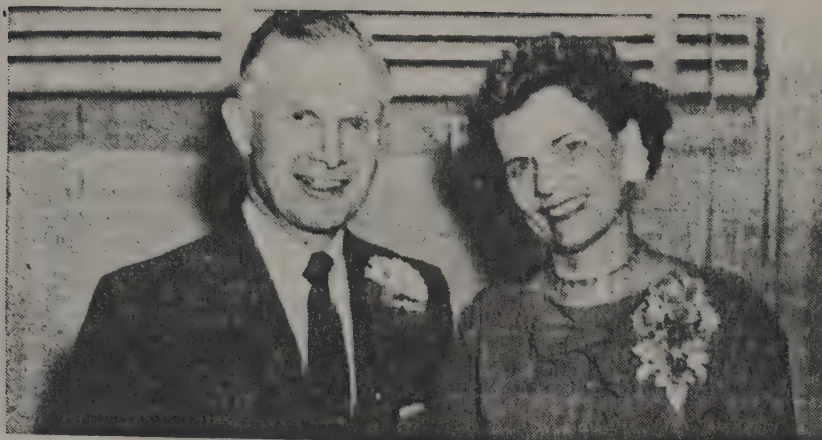
served the community as a dentist for thirty-two years—since 1926, and he is still faithfully at his work every day. The memorable events of his life in Primghar were recounted by his friends, James Metcalf, Walter Anderson, Dr. E. B. Getty and Dr. Willis E. Loeck, a brother-in-law of Lake City, Iowa. Walter Anderson mentioned that Dr. Bolender was an accomplished trombonist and had played an important part in the town band. Although a trombone of ancient vintage was produced by the m. c., Dr. Bolender refused to demonstrate his ability, saying he had not practiced lately.

Burdette Brundage, as president of the Chamber of Commerce presented a plaque to Dr. Bolender which was inscribed as follows:

PRESENTED TO
DR. W. C. BOLENDER
by
PRIMGHAR CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
for
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY
SERVICE
1957



Dr. W. C. Bolender, left; receives "Man of the Year" award from Chamber of Commerce president Burdette Brundage.



Dr. and Mrs. E. B. Getty when he was honored as "Man of the Year"



Art Anderson, center; receives "Man of the Year" award from Leon Hunt, president of the Chamber of Commerce. Pictured on left is Mrs. Art Anderson.

The next year Dr. E. B. Getty was chosen by the Chamber of Commerce and 200 friends came to the dinner in his honor held on April 28, 1959 at the Farm Bureau building.

Dr. Getty came to Primghar in November of 1935 and except for four years in the service has served the community faithfully and well ever since. His career was pointed up by Dr. W. C. Bolender, Mrs. Arlene Van Laar, his office assistant, Dr. A. D. Smith, his partner, and by Attorney Harold Grigg.

Dr. B. C. Hagen, then president of the Chamber of Commerce, presented the honoring plaque to Dr. Getty.

The third and final recipient of this honor was Art Anderson whose testimonial dinner was held May 9, 1960, in the Farm Bureau building.

Art was honored for his outstanding contribution to the town life through his work as a member of the town council for more than twenty years—from 1929 to 1946 and from 1956 to the present. His work as layman in the Methodist Church was also lauded by Rev. C. W. Kimbrell.

Leon Hunt, president of the Chamber of Commerce presented the plaque of honor to Art Anderson.

Three Internationally Known Primghar People

The list of citizens of Primghar who have received great honors is topped by three people who have become internationally known. We have given them a special place in the history of Primghar, for their work has gone outside of the United States.

It is interesting to note the variation in the fields of work of these three. All of these men were influenced in their life's work by their start in Primghar. The fields of agriculture and the humanities, the field of music, and the field of justice have received much from Our Little Town because of these native sons of Primghar.

CARL FRITZSCHE

In the fields of agriculture and the humanities we place Carl R. Fritzsche of Primghar at the top. Born and raised on his father's farm northwest of Primghar, now operated by his nephew Donald Fritzsche and his wife, Carl has perhaps carried his work the farthest from home of any Primghar native son—even to the farthest corners of the earth.

Carl was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Fritzsche, a pioneer family who settled near Primghar in 1899, after a few years on a farm between Sanborn and Shel-

don. All of Carl's school years were spent in Primghar School where he graduated in 1912.

He entered Iowa State College at Ames the fall of that year and graduated in 1916 with a degree in agriculture. His first work was in the organization of county Farm Bureaus in Iowa, but he was called into the Navy in 1917 and spent two years in the service.

When he was discharged he returned to Iowa and went to work as a county agent, first in Osceola County and then in Harrison Coun-



Carl Fritzsche points to the seacoast area of Korea where he worked as Chief of the Land and Water Use Branch of the U. S. International Co-operation Administration.

ty. With this background and experience in agriculture Carl went into Conservation work for the government, first as a district man working out of Sioux City, and then working out of Milwaukee in Zone Conservation.

After he had completed his years of government service he managed farms for three years for

a large Chicago firm, and then went into foreign service, again for the United States Government.

His first assignment was at Thailand as an Agriculturist with headquarters at Bangkok. He was employed by the United Nations Commission—the office of Economic Coordinator, Agricultural Division. His work was to improve the farm-

ing practices and crops of Thailand and build up the depleted soil of the country. In the period from February 1954 to April 1956 Carl worked with these people and taught them as much as he could about better farming. He made many friends among the Thais and called them the happiest of people.

Returning from his tour of duty Carl toured Asia and Europe, observing and visiting the people in the countryside as well as in the cities. He stayed in small towns rather than living it up in the grand continental resorts and hotels. He said it was easy to travel for all the people helped him in spite of the language barriers.

Though Carl could have retired from any kind of work at this time, he saw the need of the "have-not" countries and took another assignment in September of 1956 to South Korea where his headquarters were at Seoul. This time he was employed by the United States Overseas Mission as a Technician in Agriculture. In Korea he organized the farm youth and sought to assist them in improving their farm practices and in raising the standard of living. We have heard Carl say that the poverty of this country is so great it would be simply unbelievable to anyone from the Primghar area.

It was because of Carl's work in Korea that we put him at the top in humanities as well as in agriculture. Carl became interested in a Korean family in direst poverty, and through his influence and sponsorship arranged that part of the family be brought to the United States. First the mother came and settled in Chicago and began working in a factory. When Carl

returned from Korea in 1960 after more than three years there, he brought with him the two little boys of the family, aged 8 and 9 years—Robert and David Lee. It was amazing to see the speed with which the two boys picked up the American words and ways. They now attend school in Chicago and one of the boys is at the very top of his class. They both have paper routes and help their mother with the household expenses. We know there are other Koreans Carl has encouraged and helped financially to escape from the despair of Korean poverty.

By this time we surely thought Carl was ready to stay home and enjoy well earned retirement, but he was off again in September of 1960 to Somali, Africa, headquarters at Mogadishu and Baidoa. He was employed again by the United States Overseas Mission as a Soil Advisor in Management and Conservation. His work is in the conservation of water resources, the development of feed crops, and the establishment of permanent homes for the natives.

None of this work of Carl's has been easy. Many times, as in Somali near the Ethiopian border, it was positively very dangerous. The comforts of the American way of life Carl has given up to help people who are as far from our little town in development as they are in distance.

Carl is expected home from Africa in 1963. It may be he will be here for the 75th anniversary. He will be proud to have gone out from Primghar, and we can be proud that he has taught some parts of our kind of agriculture around the world.

LOTHAR OSTENBURG



Lloyd Oostenbrug now uses the professional name of Lothar Oostenburg. He is a baritone of international acclaim.

Lloyd is the son of the late Mr. Mr. and Mrs. Gerrit Oostenbrug of Primghar and still has in the Primghar community a sister, Edith, Mrs. Donald Kammerer. He was born May 2, 1928 near Paulina. He spent most of his grade

school years in Center Township schools and attended the first two years of high school in Primghar in 1944 and 1945. He sang in vocal contests in those two high school years and won first prize in the three competitions, County, State, and National. Lucille Fritzsche was the Primghar School music teacher at that time.

Lloyd finished high school in

Grand Rapids, Michigan and won a scholarship there with his singing to attend college. He went to the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia on this scholarship and graduated in 1952. His vocal teacher at Grand Rapids was B. Bradford Murphy, and at Curtis Institute it was Madame Euphemia Giannini Gregory.

After graduating from Curtis Institute of Music Lloyd moved to New York City where his vocal coach was the famous Leo Rose-nek who is responsible for his start in Lieder singing. He also studied under Paul Althaus, Douglas Stanley, and Raymond Smolovar.

After battling New York City for three years, Impresario Martin Taubman of Vienna heard him in a performance of Don Jose in Carmen and persuaded him to come to Europe. There he studied in Salzburg at the Mozarteum, and in Vienna and in Munich he coached roles for the opera.

He took his first opera contract as a baritone in Flensburg, Germany, on the Danish border, where he sang for two seasons in fifteen parts. Then he spent one year in Osnabruck, Germany, then three years in Bielefeld, Germany, and is now in Dusseldorf, Germany as the First Lyric Baritone of the "Deutsche Oper Am Rhein". one of the first opera houses in Europe. Besides his opera work in Dusseldorf, he has sung Papageno "Zauberflote," Wolfram "Tannhauser," Barbier "Schweigsame Frau-Strauss," Count in "The Marriage of Figaro." He has had guest performances in the other main cities of Germany and in Vienna, Italy. His recital work has taken him to Amsterdam, London, Zurich, and Vienna.

Lloyd has hopes that next season he will have recitals as well in New York City and in many

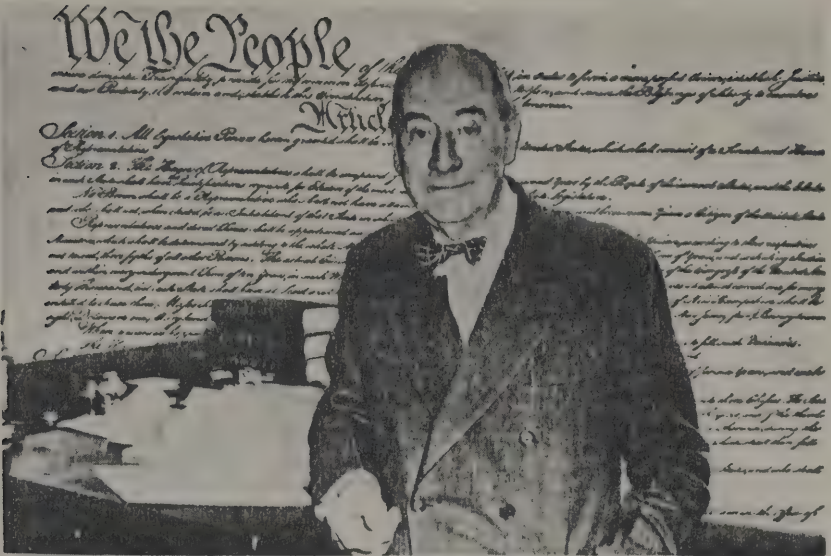
state capitals of the United States, and that eventually he can devote a month for touring the country. He has over forty parts in his opera repertoire, some fifty oratorios, seven song recitals, several recordings, and numerous broadcasts in Europe. He has made three films for the television networks in Europe.

The great Otto Klemperer wrote: "Mr. Lothar Ostenburg, whom I had an opportunity to hear in a contemporary work, is an excellent baritone, whose musicality and vocal qualities are equally extraordinary. Therefore, I can recommend him highly to any concert or operatic institution." Zurich, August, 1961.



Lothar Ostenburg as Barbier von Sevilla (in Germany).

JOSEPH N. WELCH



Most widely known of all Primghar native sons was Joseph N. Welch, attorney of international fame. He was born October 22, 1890 on a farm near Primghar, the youngest of a family of five boys. While he was still a boy, the family moved into town and the mother and father continued as residents as long as they lived. The other boys were William, George, Frank, and John all of whom are deceased. Besides these boys Mr. and Mrs. Welch made a home for two girls, nieces of Mrs. Welch.

Jose received his education in the Primghar School and graduated as valedictorian of the class of 1908. It was during these years of high school that Jose endeared himself to the townsfolk with his "friendly escapades" and exuberant personality.

At the dinner held in honor of his homecoming on June 7, 1960 at the Congregational Church in Primghar several incidents were related as questions by his old

friends. Did or did not Jose Welch help put a cow in the school house attic? Did or did not Jose save the colors of the class of 1908? Did or did not Jose Welch put the "fertilizer spreader" on the Bell Building?

When asked about his decision to go to college, Jose himself related the following incident. His father said to him as they sat on the well curb on the north side of the house (across the street northeast of the Ward Memorial Hospital) one summer evening, "Well, son, you're going to college. I want to help you all I can." So he went to the clock shelf in the dining room and brought out a cigar box. He took out the contents of the box and gave it all to Jose. It was \$14.27.

Jose Welch did go to Grinnell College by means of his own hard work and a scholarship, and again he graduated with highest distinction. He was given another scholarship and went to the Harvard Law School where he again

graduated at the head of his class. He entered a law firm in Boston and arose to partnership.

Among lawyers he was considered one of the best, a lawyer's lawyer, but he did not become internationally famous until the Army-McCarthy hearings in 1954 put his face and his wry and devastating wit on the nation's television screens.

In 1959 he moved from the courtroom to the movie set and por-

trayed the Judge in the film "Anatomy of Murder." Thereafter he appeared periodically on television taking part in discussion programs of the U. S. Constitution or introducing mystery shows.

Jose died in the hospital at Hyannis, Massachusetts near his Cape Code home of a heart condition on Friday, October 7, 1960, a well known and well loved man, one of Primghar's best.



JUNE 7, 1960—Joe Welch welcomed home at a luncheon held in his honor at the Congregational Church. Left to right are, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Welch, and Atty. H. H. Schultz, Master of Ceremonies.

CHAPTER IX – Today's Business Directory

The small town business man is a credit to his town and he is deserving and worthy of a place in the history of Primghar.

Times have changed and business places changed too. Some have remained the same through years of service, while others have become obsolete and new ones taken their places.

Many of our business men and women are young and progressive, and they serve the most essential needs of the surrounding community. Without the established business either of merchandise or service, a small town would not exist long.

Primghar is no different than any other small town. When one business closes its doors and the employees seek employment elsewhere, the people are more determined and conscious of the necessity of keeping the rest open by patronizing them. If we do not support the small town business man, the small town would soon be a thing of the past. It would be necessary to travel a great distance to a larger town where larger concerns would satisfy the needs with prices that are considerably higher. These things affect the economy of our small town.

The Primghar Community has the welcome mat out for new industry, and we are most eager to extend a helping hand to expanding industry and other businesses which seek to locate here. The attitude here is typified by one who said, "We owe much to Primghar. We like our town, and we are satisfied here. We wish more people would find the enjoyment and contentment in the relaxed atmosphere of our town."

Continued success is wished for the following business firms which we list along with their unsolicited comments.



THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

The First National Bank of Primghar was chartered November 11, 1889, making it the oldest bank in Primghar and the second oldest bank in O'Brien County. It had purchased the assets and building of the Primghar Exchange Bank from the "Slocums," who had previously taken over the original "Pumphrey" Bank, all being located on the site where the Hub Hotel stands.

That building burned in early 1902 and in the same year The First National Bank built the two story building on the southeast corner of the square where it operated until October 1959. At that time it moved into a newly remodeled building across the intersection where it celebrated its 70th Anniversary and held Open House in the new building.

—James Metcalf

O'BRIEN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Will remodel and occupy in fall of 1963.

RERICK ABSTRACT COMPANY

This company commenced business in 1907 as the successor firm to the Boyer Abstract Company. The firm has been continuously engaged in the preparation of abstracts of title to O'Brien County real estate since said time under the ownership and operation of Henry Rerick and his family, including his son Kenneth Rerick, and at the present time by Gordon R. Rosecrans, a grandson of Henry Rerick.

—Gordon R. Rosecrans

DENTIST—

Dr. W. C. Bolender opened his dental office in Primghar in July 1926 after graduating from the State University of Iowa Dental School. He has practiced in the same building these 37 years.

—Dr. W. C. Bolender

PRIMGHAR BAKERY

We moved to Primghar in September 1962 and re-opened the bakery. March 1963 we added a coffee bar to our business.

We thank the people of Primghar and surrounding area for making our business a success.

—Marie and Harold Bender

PRESENT HOME OF MARIE & HAROLD BENDER & FAMILY

SMITH AND GRIGG

Although not native born, we have selected Primghar as home by free choice. What a wonderful community in which to live and rear our children! Our firm and its predecessors have been practicing Law in O'Brien County since 1902.

—R. T. Smith and H. R. Grigg

MODERN WAY BEAUTY SALON

Being a local boy I have come to appreciate Primghar, its friendliness and the way everyone is helping to put this Jubilee over. This same spirit must have prevailed 75 years ago.

—Gordon Steffens





PRIMGHAR CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC

We moved to Primghar in October of 1953. Our office was opened in the Schultz-Kaiser building. One year later we purchased the Hub Hotel and remodeled it into one of the world's largest and finest equipped chiropractic clinics.

—B. C. Hagen, D.C.

SHOE REPAIR

New business in town, having opened in May, 1963.

—Mr. and Mrs. Walter Houts

THE O'BRIEN COUNTY BELL

Since 1886 the O'Brien County Bell has recorded the progress of Primghar; and since 1955 we have been proud to add more printed words to its history.

—Harold C. Grafton and Shirley J. Omer

VACANT BUILDING—formerly Montgomery Florist

HAP'S LUNCH

We have been serving folks in this area for the past three years, and we hope to continue.

—Hap and Lucy Gravenish



PETE'S TAVERN

We have lived in this community since 1920. We went into business in 1949. We have appreciated the business the people in this community have given us.

—Mary and Pete Flick, Sr.

JEAN'S JEWELRY

This store has operated since 1950. As the years came and went the business grew, bringing us many friends. We appreciate this. May we continue to serve you in the future.

—Gloria DeKok and Lydia Standing

ELITE CLEANERS

The Elite Cleaners was established March 9, 1938 in the former Harry Nye hardware building by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Jensen. In 1945 the business was moved to the former John Klink building. This is the present location.

—C. E. "Swede" Jensen

GREENLEE'S FOOD MARKET

Quality meats, fruits and vegetables. Complete locker service. John Greenlee came to Primghar in March 1947. In June 1947 the first super-store opened. In 1952 we opened the locker plant, then in 1954 we built the fresh fruit and refrigeration unit on the west side, at which time we built the building now housing Jean's Jewelry.

—Mrs. John Greenlee



O'BRIEN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Since 1939 farmers of O'Brien County have served themselves with central station electric service. For every dollar spent by the Cooperative as an investment in service lines—four dollars has been spent by the farmers in the business places of the County towns for equipment to use the service. Rural electricity is good for the towns as well as the country.

—Wm. J. Crowley, Manager

RIDENOUR HARDWARE

Jubilation of our Diamond Jubilee won't sparkle long unless we join forces in keeping PRIMGHAR alive and flourishing. Let's keep faith with the pioneers by loyalty to home town merchants.

—Arnie and Nora Ridenour

VIRG'S RECREATION

We have been serving the folks in the community for the past six years. Our place is a place where good friends meet and relax.

—Marie and Virgil Richter

NELSON'S SPORTING GOODS

We would like to thank the people of Primghar and surrounding territory for their patronage the past 6 years. We hope to continue to serve you for many more years. Thank you.

—"Timmie and Toots" Nelson



GLENN'S FURNITURE

New and used furniture. Your business is appreciated.

—Dean Williams, Manager

IOWA STATE LIQUOR STORE

The building now occupied by the Iowa State Liquor Store was built in 1903 by Mr. John King for a grocery store. Later the Primghar Democrat Newspaper was printed there. Mr. Pete Rohner later owned it for a bakery and in 1939 it was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt and was sold to Dr. Arnold. He sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Art Noe in 1940, and they moved their cafe into it from the north side of the square. In 1947 they sold the cafe fixtures and rented it to the Iowa Liquor Commission for a state store.

—Mrs. Ida Noe

BURDETTE'S MARKET - A small store with BIG Values.

The life and prosperity of any town, especially a small town such as ours depends upon the good will among business men and the co-operation of business and the general public.

—Burdette and Myrle Brundage

SEIVERT FURNITURE

This business was established in 1920 by N. A. Seivert, and has operated continuously for the past 43 years, thus laying claim to being the oldest retail establishment in town. The business is now owned and operated by Jack Seivert, son of the founder.

—Jack Seivert

SHERIDAN'S 5 & 10

STORAGE — GLENN'S FURNITURE

SCHOENING AND SCHOENING PLUMBING AND HEATING

The plumbing and heating career of Milo Schoening started with Metcalf Hdwe. in 1937-1939. From 1939-1952 with Cassidy and Halbach. In 1952 the Schoening and Schoening Plumbing and Heating business was formed.

—Milo G. Schoening, Owner

SCHOENING ELECTRIC

Our business is a new business with modern up-to-date ideas for your electrical wiring needs. We do all types of commercial, residential and farm wiring.

—Kenneth Schoening, Owner



KLINK INSURANCE

I took over my father's insurance business in 1957. He started in 1925. Bought out Saupe Ins. in 1959 and have maintained an office in Primghar since. I am a Director in O'Brien County Farmer's Mutual. All types of Insurance written and serviced.

—Harold Klink

PRIMGHAR ELECTRIC AND GIFT SHOP

We have a nice line of gifts for all occasions. A complete line of Ambassador greeting cards. Also electrical household appliances and your electrical wiring supplies.

—Ines and Logan Kleinheksel

HUNT PHARMACY

For 20 years it has been the policy of the Hunt Pharmacy to provide the Primghar community with a modern and complete drug store. Remember: Today's health is your greatest bargain.

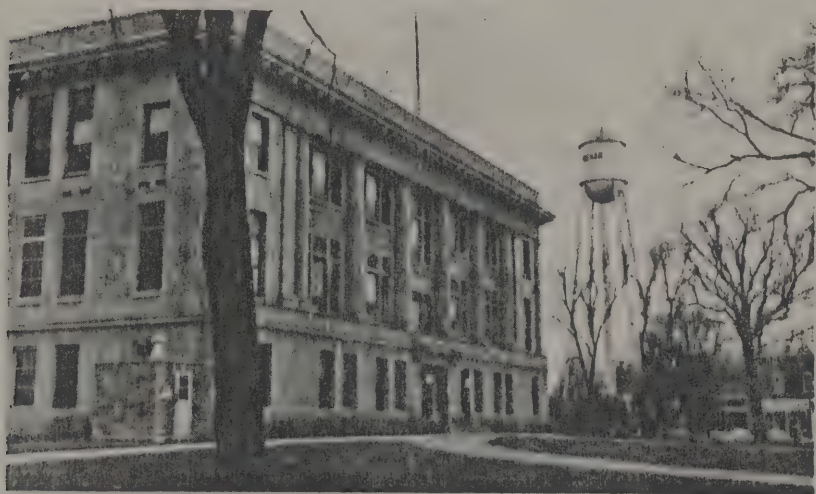
—Leon M. Hunt, Owner

BERGEN'S STORE

Our store, located on the southeast corner of the square, is the oldest store in town. The building was built in 1902 and has housed a succession of general stores serving Primghar for over 60 years.

—Miriam and Art Bergen

VACANT BLDG. - Once First National Bank, built in 1902.

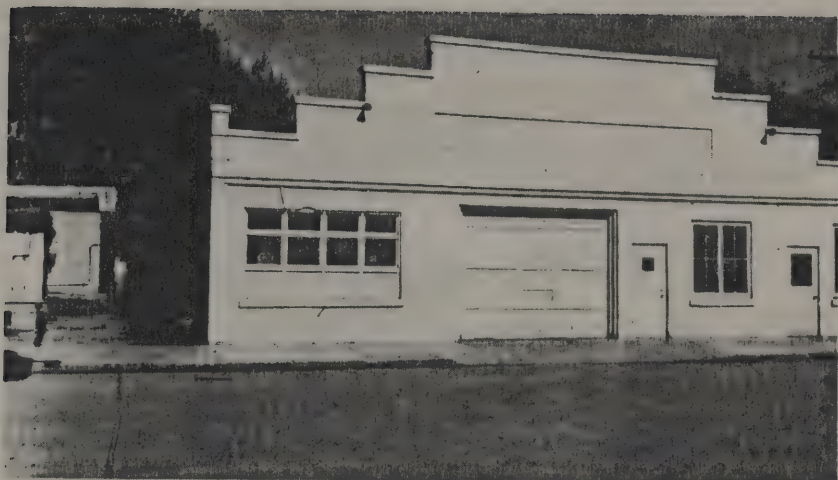


THE O'BRIEN COUNTY COURT HOUSE

The location of the Court House in the heart of the business square brings unique beauty as well as service to the town. God's greatest gifts, the trees, planted in 1878, and the well kept lawn, add serenity.

The business people of Primghar realize the advantages and the convenience of having the Court House just a few steps away. The folks in this community and the surrounding area have come to respect and value the various services given by the employees connected with the O'Brien County offices. There are thirty-two employees in the building; thirty-one rural road workers, and five county supervisors.

Judicial proceedings are also administered by the personnel of the court.



PRIMGHAR RECREATIONAL CENTER



HERM'S WELDING AND MACHINE SHOP

During our 15 years in business we have observed and we definitely believe that Fair Prices and Good Work, plus a Friendly Attitude to all, is the secret for a successful business and a small town's survival.

—Mickie and Herman Van Leeuwen



PRIMGHAR BODY SHOP

We are newcomers to Primghar. We specialize in quality work, satisfaction guaranteed. We hope to be of service to you for years to come.

—Earl Newman, Owner



NAGLE PRODUCE AND FARM SUPPLY

Having been in the Produce and Farm Supply business in Primghar since 1931, I feel I have a right to call this my hometown. I have chosen to live here 32 years and am grateful that Primghar has been good to me and my family.

—R. C. "Dick" Nagle



HUBERT H. SCHULTZ, Attorney

I was born in Sheldon and received my law degree from the State University of Iowa in 1937. Upon being elected County Attorney in 1939 I moved to Primghar and have practiced here ever since. I have been Town Attorney for Primghar since 1952. At the present time I am president of the O'Brien County Bar Association and a member of the 21st Judicial Bar, Iowa State Bar, American Bar and Federal Power Bar Associations.

—Hubert H. Schultz

REBEKAH AND I.O.O.F. LODGE UPSTAIRS

VACANT OFFICE—formerly Klink Insurance

NEW FIRE STATION

NORMAN BROS. - Ford & Mercury Sales and Service

During my 10 years of selling Fords and Mercurys, I have enjoyed knowing and doing business with the people in this community.

—James S. Norman





LARSON BEAUTY SALON

With the finest equipment available we are able to give the people of Primghar the best in hair styles. You will always be served by highly trained, courteous and friendly hair stylists.

—Merlyn Larson

PRIMGHAR LAUNDROMAT

Dr. B. C. Hagen, owner; Wm. Fjeld, Manager.

FARNSWORTH SKELLY SERVICE

Farnsworth Skelly Service has been in operation for 17 years in Primghar. We certainly look back with pride and gratitude to our association with many fine neighbors and friends in Primghar and vicinity.

—Irv. Farnsworth and John Oldenkamp

SLINGER CORN SHELLING

Since 1947 I have been shelling corn for the farmers in this area. I hope to serve them for many years yet. "If they grow it, I'll shell it."

—Hank Slinger

CASSIDY SHELLANE GAS CO.

I have been in business 35 years in Primghar.

—V. J. Cassidy

ROOS BERG VAULT COMPANY

Manufacturers of Berg concrete burial vaults. Franchised from St. Louis, Missouri. Services about fifteen counties in northwest Iowa. In operation since 1953.

—Glenn Roos, Owner

DON'S WOOD SHOP

Cabinets and fixtures.

—Don Hagen, Proprietor

SIMONSEN FEED AND FERTILIZER

Since 1953 I have enjoyed serving the people around Primghar and surrounding area for Simonsen Feed and Fertilizer.

—Robert Aronson

MOWER REPAIR

I have been an employee of the Town for ten years, and am now Chief of Police. I also repair lawn mowers, do crankshaft work and mow lawns.

—Dan Ginger

PEOPLES NATURAL GAS

Natural gas was introduced in Primghar when a new distribution system was built in 1954, and this community joined the group of communities now totaling 188 served by Peoples Natural Gas. Since 1958 I have lived in Primghar as local representative for this company.

—Bill Harries

BROWN RADIO-TV SERVICE

Since adopting Primghar as my home town back in 1937, I have found it a pleasant and fine place to live. I sincerely appreciate all patronage accorded me since then.

—Lloyd Brown

VETERINARIAN

We have had many changes in the past 30 years, most of which have been to our advantage. There is every reason to believe that this progress will continue even at a faster rate.

E. Sundquist, D.V.M.

PRIMGHAR BUILDERS

The Primghar Builders, a general construction and remodeling company, was organized as a partnership business venture in April 1951. The original partners were Wilfred Postel, Walter Bern, Sr., and Leo Reimann. The firm operated thus until March, 1955, at which time "Willy," as he was known, sold his interest in the partnership to Walt and Leo. The firm has continued to operate under the original company's name.

The company, during the summer building season, usually employs 7 or 8 local men and high school boys. The Builders have erected and remodeled many homes in and around Primghar. Their first new home was built for Mr. and Mrs. Carl Akeson in 1951. They have also constructed many new farm buildings and have done extensive repairs on others.

Some of the major projects completed by the Primghar Builders are Hunt's Drug Store, The Grace Lutheran Church, The Congregational Church Educational Unit and The Immanuel Lutheran Church at George, Iowa. Currently we are working on the Don Hagen projects—the John Oldaker and Omar Hagen homes.

—Leo Reimann

PETERSEN DRAY

For 20 years I have been in business hauling freight, cement, coal, garbage, lumber, and trash. I enjoy my work very much and I also enjoy living in this community.

—Marius Petersen

SEIVERT'S FUNERAL HOME

WARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

See articles on Incorporated Town and Hospital Auxiliary.

WELL'S BLUE BUNNY

For quality dairy products call 757-6225 Primghar. Your route man.

—William H. Webb



EVANS A & W DRIVE IN

Thanks for your patronage for the past two years.

—Mr. and Mrs. John Evans



ROY EDWARDS TRUCKING SERVICE

1936 I began trucking service with **one small truck**. This truck could hold eight or ten fat cattle. I now own six units. The stock trailers each will accommodate 25 or 30 fat cattle, or 50 to 60 feeder calves and with a double deck, there is room for 150 to 160 fat hogs.

1952 our son Kermit and family moved to Primghar. Since then he has been a part of this service, and now we are in partnership.

1962 I began operating an independent hog buying station. I have never been involved in a major accident.

—Roy Edwards



MYRL'S NURSING HOME

I came here in June 1952 to start my business. In December, 1960, Howard Tiemens joined me as a business partner. These eleven years have been kind to me. The five doctors, Dr. Wagner, Dr. Getty, Dr. LaMaster, Dr. Smith and Dr. Bolender have served us well along with the business places. Primghar has a fine group of business people. May they serve us many years to come. I think Primghar is the only Primghar in the world . . . where else would one find such down-to-earth humans. The business people here will always put their best foot forward to serve you. Agree? Success and many happy hours ahead for all these fine people—we could use more of such fine businesses and those who operate them. There will always be a Primghar!

Myrl Hall and Howard Tiemens



SUNRISE MOTEL

On May 28, 1959 we moved into the Sunrise Motel. We have enjoyed being in business in Primghar. We have also enjoyed the people of the community.

—Mr. and Mrs. Ralph De Vries



AUCTIONEER AND REAL ESTATE

Since 1944 I have devoted all my time to auctioneering and to real estate business. It has been a pleasure to do business with the people in Primghar and surrounding area. Ability plus experience equals added dollars.

—Mitch Vander Tuig



BRUNDAGE NURSING HOME

The second oldest in the county. It was started in October 1942. Mrs. Henry Imweihe (deceased) of Paullina, was the first patient. In 1948, during the time the hospital was closed, Dr. Getty used the facilities of my nursing home as a hospital with Mrs. Irene Cassidy, R. N. and Miss Susie Skaar, L.P.N., as assisting nurses. I am still operating the nursing home with a capacity of eight patients.

—Mrs. Pearl Brundage, L.P.N., Operator



DOLPHIN FEED AND GRINDING SERVICE

For thirty years we have had portable feed grinding service for farmers in the Primghar area. We grind where it grows. Our motto The finest things in life are the friendships gained along the way.

—Tracie and John Dolphin



NELLE APPLIANCE STORE

We, with our children, Robert and Rosemary, came to Primghar October 1, 1929. We engaged in the retail business then, and we are still active to date. We also are enjoying good business and good health. At the present time we are located on highway 59, in appliances, bottle gas, and Conoco gas station.

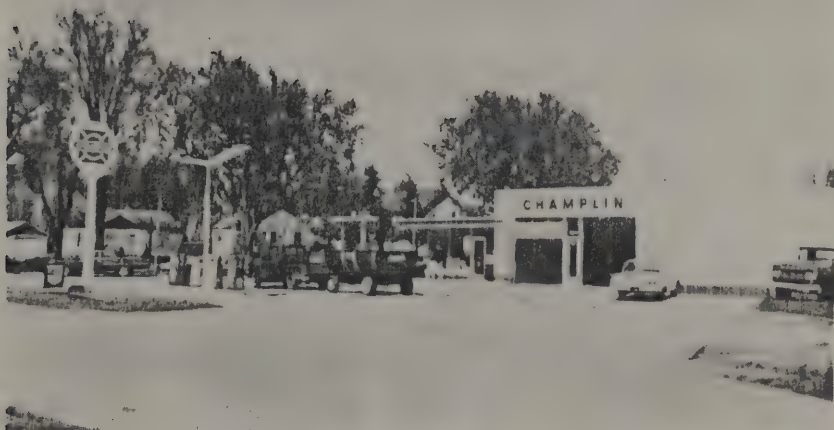
—R. H. and Mayme Nelle



GETTY AND SMITH, M. D. - Physicians and Surgeons

Dr. E. B. Getty, M. D. came to Primghar in November of 1935. The heavy snows and drifts the first winter and the hot dry summer of 1936 were quite an initiation. I have practiced my profession here since that time with the exception of 1942 to 1946 when I served in World War II in the United States, England, France and Germany.

Dr. A. D. Smith, M. D. came to Primghar in January of 1956 as an associate and partner with me.



NORMAN'S CHAMPLIN SERVICE

It has been a pleasure doing business with you.

—Fred Schurkamp, Operator



PRINS FARM SERVICE

In 1948 the "Prins Surge Service" now the Prins Farm Service started in a little two by four shack just across the alley south of where the John Ruby family now resides. Our place of business now is located north of the "Phillips 66 Station." We employ three steady men doing plumbing and ditching service of all kinds.

—Mr. and Mrs. John Prins



WALLY'S "66" SERVICE AND TANKWAGON

Complete line of Phillips Petroleum Products. Complete line of tires, battery and accessories. Prompt and courteous service. Eight years of experience.

—Wallace Sohn



RON'S STANDARD STATION

Your business has been appreciated. Your operator for the past year has been Ron Houghtaling.

—Ron Houghtaling



GENERAL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF IOWA

The first telephone was invented in 1876. The first telephones were placed in service in Primghar in 1888. Today there are over 800 phones in service. The local exchange was changed to dial system in 1956. General Telephone Company acquired the Primghar Exchange January 1, 1963 from the Peck family who had operated it 50 years.

—Paul J. Schmitz, Local Manager



FARM BUREAU — (See Organizations)



EWOLDT MOTOR COMPANY

Purchased from Cambier Company July 1, 1960. Dealers in Chevrolet cars and trucks. Also dealers in used cars. We thank the public for their business.

—Roy and Lee Ewoldt



ANDERSON HATCHERY AND MILL

Since 1924 we have served the rural people of this community, and we hope to continue to be of service to you.

—Dale Anderson

PETERSEN LIVESTOCK & TRUCKING

We're happy to be serving the Primghar area buying and selling livestock, and with our trucking business. We enjoy our association with farmers and townspeople and look forward to a continued good life in Primghar.

—Alvin H. "Pete" Petersen

PRIMGHAR LUMBER STORE

The original owner was J. C. Rudloff. On May 25, 1917 four people bought it. They were: C. Hooker, F. Gates, J. V. Coleman, and Hughs. The yard was rebuilt shortly after the purchase. Mr. Coleman and Mr. Hooker bought out Gates and Hughs, and they operated it for years. Fred Stiles then bought out Mr. Hooker and Frank Nye managed the yard for Coleman and Stiles, after which Ed Reisdorfer was manager. Mr. Coleman bought out Stiles and he was sole owner until the present day corporation bought it in 1955. L. W. Anderson was manager from 1955 until Feb. 1962. Roger Smith is the present manager. On January 31, 1963 the main yard was completely destroyed by fire. Rebuilding was started as soon as weather permitted.

—Roger Smith, Manager



ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD

Primghar is located along the tracks of the Sioux Falls District, a portion of the Iowa Division of the Illinois Central Railroad. The Sioux Falls District tracks were laid through Primghar during the year 1887. Since that time the policy has been to serve this community with adequate and dependable transportation and courteous service. Also to deserve the confidence and good will of our friends and neighbors. As the town of Primghar has advanced from the horse and buggy days, thus the Illinois Central has advanced. New and improved cars have been developed to transport the many types of products and materials such as piggy back flat cars, mechanical refrigerators, insulated box cars, etc. Likewise the power has changed from the black smoke-belching steam locomotives to the modern diesel locomotive, with which the Illinois Central has become completely dieselized. All improvements were made with the patron in mind by improving service and speeding up traffic to stay abreast with an ever changing and improving economy.

The Sioux Falls District, of which Primghar is a part, consists of 96.4 miles of track between Cherokee, Iowa, and Sioux Falls, S. D. The entire Illinois Central System has a total trackage of 6,460 miles. Illinois Central directly serves fourteen states.

During this time, the Primghar Station has been served by many Station Agents. Currently it is served by E. A. Otte, who succeeded W. O. Hopkins on June 1, 1962, upon his retirement.

—E. A. Otte, Agent

C-D FARM SERVICE CO.

We are happy to be part of the business and service organizations of Primghar. It is hoped that our service to the farm people of the area will contribute to the general good of this fine community.

—Paul E. Strautz, General Manager



NICHOLSON AND EDWARDS GRAIN CO.

The Primghar area is now being served by one grain elevator known as Nicholson and Edwards Grain Company.

The elevator came into being soon after the railroad was built in 1887. Frank Matler was the first owner. Records do not show how long it was in his possession. Approximately 1909 the Farmer's Elevator was organized by the following directors: Ed Fritzsche, Wm. Klink, Wm. Ortman, and Wm. Randolph. Later directors were John Alberts, Wm. Waund and Henry Brinkert. Managers through the years were Walter Green, Chas. Pavik, D. B. Groves, Paul Williamson, Chas. Speaker, and Roy Bennett.

The Farmers Elevator was maintained until 1935 when it was purchased by Willey and Grieg of Sibley. Willey Brothers became owners in 1946. In 1956 the present owners took over.

In the early days the grain was transported by team and wagon from a limited distance. Business consisted chiefly of buying and selling grain and coal. Presently in addition to buying and selling grain, services include grinding and mixing of feeds, selling of commercial fertilizer, operation of a grain dryer and a truck line. The railroad services are still used but trucks play an important part in transportation. Present employees are: Roy Nelson, Ronald Aldred, Wm. Edwards, Ed Robinson and Warren Mulder.

—Clay Edwards and R. S. Nicholson

CHAPTER X — News Items From The Bell

March 30, 1888 — The old jail will be moved from the court house.

April 13, 1888 — A man will be here next week to train area farmers on how to culture horses. He will charge three dollars per person.

May 25, 1888 — The Primghar Cheese Factory will open Saturday.

Feb. 14, 1889 — Are you sickly? If so, there are no better liquors than North Star. Sold for medicinal reasons only, of course.

March 28, 1889 — Why can't Primghar have electric lights?

April 4, 1889 — Hen fruit in abundance.

April 25, 1889 — Ten cents per dozen for eggs at Williams Bros.

July 25, 1889 — The mayor has ordered all horse wastes removed from the park.

Oct. 24, 1889 — No vacant houses in town.

January 8, 1890 — Hurrah for Primghar's new Artesian well.

Feb. 6, 1890 — Tie your horses up before leaving them.

July 3, 1890 — Atty. Peck has just added 40 new books to his library.

July 3, 1890 — A silver hair pin was lost in Primghar. Leave at this office.

January 28, 1892 — Matt Metcalf received three car loads of ice Tuesday and will receive eight more cars in a few days.

February 4, 1892 — Wanted—Fifty buggies to paint—M. P. Mesinger.

February 11, 1892 — Green Wright says he is not married, and he ought to know.

February 18, 1892 — Groceries Cheaper than ever:

22 pounds granulated sugar—\$1
22 pounds light brown sugar—\$1
10 lbs best evaporated apples—\$1
10 lbs. best evaporated apricots—\$1

Quaker rolled oats 10c a package.
Maple sugar 12½ cents per pound
Oranges and lemons 20c per dozen
Pickles 35c per gallon.

February 25, 1892 — Justice Algyer went to Mr. Flick's home and for \$3 gave a young man license to "hug" a girl for 30 years or more.

February 25, 1892 — Last Sunday Sheriff Noyes made a special inspection of the jail and found a bit, a drill and keys which evidently had been handed to the prisoner through the window.

March 3, 1892 — Primghar is to have another court house, will be erected directly east of Whitmer's real estate office.

April 28, 1892 — A crew of horse traders have been lingering around Primghar for some days waiting and watching for suckers.

May 5, 1892 — The editor of this paper is building a cyclone cave because of the thunder and lightning season.

May 5, 1892 — Williams Bros. prices for this week:
Sun-dried peach 20 lbs. \$1.
13c for butter
Bolts Bleached Muslin, 5-7c per yard, by the bolt only.
Plow Shoes \$1 per pair, all solid.

May 19, 1892 — Frank Seace will soon commence the erection of a \$2,000 residence.

May 19, 1892 — Enroute for Primghar, G. Y. Walker's horse was drowned when a bridge near Sanborn caved in.

May 26, 1892 — The deadlock continues with our school board regarding hiring a principal.

June 2, 1892 — Don't sit on the Primghar hotel floor.

June 2, 1892 — The creamery will soon commence operations.

June 2, 1892 — Don't play cards at the Primghar hotel.

June 2, 1892 — The exterior of the Court House is being repainted.

June 9, 1892 — More than one mile of sidewalk is being built in Primghar.

June 23, 1892 — Sutherland is in shape to help Primghar make the eagle scream July 4th.

January 7, 1892 — Oysters served in any style at the Bakery.

January 7, 1892 — You will be highly entertained at the Opera House to-night. Music by the Primghar orchestra.

June 30, 1892 — A dance bowery will run all day and night between William's store and the opera house July 4th.

June 30, 1892 — No milk wagons will be allowed to run on July 4th.

July 14, 1892 — The sidewalk is being placed around the park.

July 14, 1892 — Some 5,000 people were present at 4th of July celebration.

September 29, 1892 — West side of the Achorn elevator gave way, emptying 8000 bushels of barley over the Central track.

Oct. 6, 1892 — Sanborn dealers send to Primghar creamery for butter.

December 15, 1892 — Virge Barmore's mustache is not a success.

Thursday, February 9, 1893 — Thirty-five degrees below zero at 6 o'clock Tuesday morning. Mrs. Winterble and daughter returned from Sheldon Sunday evening. The first through train for a week from Chicago, passed through Primghar Tuesday morning. The blockade was in Illinois. The Bell office is pleased to report that The Farmer's Mutual Insurance Company of O'Brien County, is a success. Every farmer in the county ought to have his property insured in this company.

Thursday, March 16, 1893 — Ten cents a transfer at Cooper's Abstract office. Only 10 cents. J. W. Rowan, formerly of Lincoln township has moved to Primghar, occupying the Eph Scott residence. Atty. Montzheimer has purchased the building between the post office and Primghar Hotel, formerly occupied by W. S. Armstrong and is having the same repaired and enlarged. He will occupy for his office. Winterble, Ward and Holbrook visited Sheldon Tuesday, going on an afternoon freight and returning on the regular evening passenger.

Thursday, April 13, 1893 — Miss Cora Doyle commenced a term of school in Dale, Monday. Our worthy County Supt., Miss Seckerson, is enjoying a pleasant visit from her friend, Miss Hattie Meacher, of Portage, Wisconsin. Last Saturday license to wed was issued to Orrin Draper and Sarah E. Hill; Chas. Baumeister and Dora Brueggmann; F. H. Shinkle and Ann Halladay. Miss Minnie Oliver, daughter of Wm. Oliver, of Center, returned Tuesday morning from a visit at Cherokee.

Thursday, May 4, 1893 — Mrs. Reynoldson, wife of Mr. Reynoldson of the firm of Reynoldson & Metcalf, arrived with her children

from Dubuque, Sunday morning. G. R. Whitmer visited Sheldon last Friday. Dennis O'Brien of Sutherland was a Primghar visitor last Friday. Peter Jensen was elected Worthy Chief of the Good Templars at a recent meeting. Geo. Wheelock of Paullina, was in Primghar Sunday and Monday.

Thursday, June 15, 1893 — Laura Fox is acting as assistant post mistress. Mrs. D. Bysom accompanied Mr. Peck and family to the World's Fair. Joe Nye, Jr., is at the lakes. He went to look after Will Armstrong. Mr. and Mrs. Bovee occupy the house recently vacated by Mr. and Mrs. Al King. W. H. Noyes is in attendance at the Inter-State Sheriffs' Association now in session at Council Bluffs.

Thursday, July 13, 1893 — Chas. Asquith and Ed Borland with their families visited the Lakes last week. Frank Bowles and his force have completed the carpenter work on Mr. Hatch's residence south of town. Mrs. G. W. Schee and son Georgie arrived in the city Monday morning from Chicago where they, with Mr. Schee and the rest of the family had been enjoying three weeks at the World's Fair. Mr. Schee and Willie and May remained at the fair.

Thursday, July 20, 1893 — John Ortman is assisting in Lang's meat market. Nellie Hinman and Orrie McCroskey are visiting in Baker.

Thursday, August 31, 1893 — Miss Blanche Dean attended the wedding of a friend at Spencer last Saturday. Dr. Webber and family of Cherokee were guests of C. H. Winterble on the Lord's day. Three thousand bushels of grain was taken in at the Archer elevator yesterday and day before. Earl Brown and Sherm Strong rode their bicycles down from Sheldon Friday, returning the same day.

Thursday, September 14, 1893 — Lounges for \$5.50, at Hames. "Ralph" Hinman will soon visit the World's Fair. The Hartley ball team waxed the Primghar team last Friday, 3 to 1. SHOES: Men's work shoes, \$1.25; Ladies Pebble Goat shoes, \$1.50; Misses oil grain shoes, No's. 12 to 2, \$1.00; Boy's solid shoes No's. 3 to 5, \$1.25—Semmons. Dr. Brown has leased the Matson residence near the M. E. Church.

Thursday, October 5, 1893 — Primghar's population now exceeds 1,000, and still they come. Business is on the increase in Primghar. Keep it up. O'Brien County is in the very heart of the richest agricultural region in the great west. Miss Nellie McCormack is prepared to give music lessons either at her home or at home of the pupil.

Thursday, January 4, 1894 — Mrs. Jobes enjoyed a visit from a brother last week. Mr. C. Hill, Primghar's stock buyer, goes to LaPorte, Iowa tonight, he will return to Primghar next week bringing with him his family. Frank Green, at one time section boss on the Primghar division of the Illinois Central at this place, is now Road Master on the Great Northern. We are all glad of it, Frank. ADVERTISEMENTS: Bedroom suites, 3 pieces \$15.00; Kitchen chairs 45c each or six for \$2.50; Eight Dollar rockers for \$6.50, hard wood, cane seated high back rockers \$2.50—J. B. Hames, Furniture.

Thursday, February 8, 1894 — Mrs. Hughes of Cherokee, was the guest of Mrs. J. M. Long last Friday. Mrs. Long accompanied her friend home Friday evening returning Tuesday morning Hon. G. W. Schee sailed yesterday from San Francisco for the Sandwich Islands. May the voyage be a safe and pleasant one, is the wish of his many friends. Prof. H. G. See-

ley, after conducting a very successful term of writing school at this place, returned to his home in Sutherland, Sunday.

Thursday, February 16, 1894 — Primghar Market: Hogs \$4.75; Butter 15c, eggs, 15c. Harry May has resigned his position with Mr. Semmons and engaged in business at Milford. A. P. Anderson and Oscar Morgan made a trip to Sheldon, Monday. Mr. Anderson leased a farm near Archer from E. Y. Royce of Sheldon. W. J. Bruce and Co. are selling good Iowa coal at only \$3.50 per ton. Now is the time to buy

Thursday, February 22, 1894 — A letter was mailed from Primghar to St. Louis, last Monday ordering this to place some ten or fifteen colored ladies to accept positions as household domestics for Primghar families.

Thursday, March 8, 1894 — The vote "for fire protection" at the Primghar election carried by a large majority. It is understood that Messrs. C. H. Slocum, J. L. E. Peck and J. S. Potter have consented to go on the school board. This will certainly be gratifying to all concerned. Farmers are seeding in portions of the County. Mrs. Viers arrived home yesterday. She has been visiting her parents at Manchester.

Thursday, March 15, 1894 — Mr. and Mrs. John Towberman visited with friends at Sutherland the first of the week. The billiard hall building, known as the "joint" has been closed. Four runaways in town this week but no one injured. The Editor made a flying trip to Sutherland Wednesday; returning the same day.

June 7, 1894 — The blacksmith shop is being arranged for a saloon.

July 26, 1894 — E. H. Jobes is

away on a 500 mile trip with his bicycle.

August 15, 1894 — At present there are exactly 20 new residences being erected in Primghar, and only two of them costing less than \$1000.

Sept. 6, 1894 — Eight years ago the Bell office was hauled into Primghar in a three seated platform wagon.

Oct. 4, 1894 — One organ, belonging to the M. E. Church was stolen!

Dec. 6, 1894 — The Primghar Bell has been sold to J. H. Wolf and Thomas Gravenor for \$2,500

May 1922 — A. Rohner has moved his bakery to the south side of the square.

February 1922 — New Ford tractors for \$395 at Primghar Auto Co.

Year of 1933

JANUARY—R.P. Jones, pioneer, buried. 3,439 motor vehicle licenses issued to Jan. 10. Salaries of township assessors and deputy county officers are cut. Modern 76's organized.

FEBRUARY—J. F. Yeager died. His wife took over his office. Wilbur Mills, deputy county treasurer. M. H. Rooney pioneer barber attended. J. E. Hastings dies of influenza.

MARCH—County Supervisors borrow \$18,000 from R F C for poor relief. Bank holiday in Primghar through Federal action. Both banks sound. L. H. Bernard Civil War Veteran dies. Walter Krumm becomes manager for International Harvester. Victor Peck ill with Malta Fever.

MAY—Farmers Holiday. Barnett Schneider former County Super-

visor, dies in California, buried here. Only two members of GAR left in Primghar. Rev. Ralph Beebe speaks for Memorial Day services.

JUNE—C. D. Bourke resigns as postmaster.

JULY—Frank Halbach appointed postmaster. J. E. Hicks manager of Hub Hotel buried. Lightning struck Dave Waldhelm home. Sheriff Leemkuil captures kidnaper.

AUGUST—Business men of county meet in Primghar and fix uniform opening and closing hours under NIRA. Mrs. C. N. Williams dies. C. D. Bourke and Earl Waggoner open abstract office.

SEPTEMBER—Fred B. Wolf Chairman of re-employment committee in O'Brien County. Fire destroys all buildings but house on J. F. Smith farm. Jasper Marsh 90 years old—one or two remaining soldiers of the Civil War. J. A. Klink leases Primghar theatre. C. D. Bourke elected head of county NRA compliance Committee.

OCTOBER—Harvest Festival at Congregational Church. M. L. Blanchard dies. August Klink dies in auto accident.

NOVEMBER—County visited by one of the severest dust storms in history. Mrs. May Rosecrans, 77, mother of E. A. Rosecrans, merchant, died.

DECEMBER—Royal Arch Masons observe 50th anniversary. Manager Klink holds four gift nights at the movies.

Year of 1948

JANUARY—Primghar host of County Basketball Tourney.

JULY—Bell office moved to new location.

SEPTEMBER—Draft sign-up underway here. Eli Parry and Col. H. G. Geiger head draft registration board. Counthouse to undergo redecorating.

Year of 1949

JANUARY—John Prins to open milking machine and plumbing shop. All county roads still open, but travel hazardous.

APRIL—Traffic at a standstill on highways because of snow storm.

Year of 1950

JANUARY—Sgt. James McCaulley returned for burial. Williams Electric closes out. Ten Kley-Idso open new International Harvester building.

FEBRUARY—John Griffin, magician of Sioux Falls, former teacher, here, entertains Primghar Women's Club in drive for funds to furnish Children's Room at new library.

APRIL—Jay Crowley and Jerry Lathrop will attend Scout Jamboree at Valley Forge.

MAY—C. E. Jensen elected head of O'Brien County Firemen.

JUNE—Scout Circus. Ground breaking for O'Brien County Farm Bureau building.

Year of 1947

JANUARY—Keith Stiles, 45, suffocated in elevator at Gaza.

Year of 1951

JANUARY—Temperature drops to 15 below.

FEBRUARY—Traffic paralyzed as winter's worst storm strikes.

MARCH—Primghar goes without mail from Tuesday until Saturday due to snow-blocked roads.

APRIL — Margaret Mann announces her retirement after 25 years as County Superintendent of Schools.

MAY—John W. Brouwer of Mapleton elected County Superintendent of Schools.

JULY—Dairy Empress, Dorothy Koch for Primghar. Primghar Postoffice moves to new building owned by Irving Lefkow. County Sports Festival July 27.

SEPTEMBER—Jerome F. Smith, Primghar Insurance man, buried. Wesley Lorenger bookkeeping and tax service.

OCTOBER—Fred Stiles became part owner of Primghar Lumber Co. Jesse Stewart of Kentucky speaks at Primghar, sponsored by County Board of Education. N. W. District County Treasurers meet in Primghar. Howard Tiemens made Deputy Sheriff.

NOVEMBER — Town Council buys new fire truck. Mrs. Ralph Hinman, 78, dies.

DECEMBER— Claussen's move bakery to Austin, Minn.

AUGUST—Morrell Packing Co. pays 52c per lb. for top baby beef at O'Brien Co. Fair.

Year of 1952

MARCH—Residents digging out after blizzard.

AUGUST—Set O'Brien County Corn support at \$1.53.

OCTOBER—Long dry spell poses fire hazard. New highway postoffice makes initial trip. First snow storm paralyzes traffic.

Year of 1953

Harrison Fisch takes part in South America. Mr. Fisch and family sail from New York, January 16, to Columbia, South America. Mr. Fisch is an agricultural engineer, instructor on staff of Michigan State College.

MAY—John B. Strack, Manchester, has been employed as O'Brien County Art Supervisor.

DECEMBER—First night school session next Monday night at 7:30.

Year of 1954

JAN.—H. H. Schultz in Washington for gas hearing. Dr. Richard Wagner, son of Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Wagner of Primghar, has recently opened an office in Sioux City with his practice limited to Orthodontics.

JANUARY—F. C. Bordewick takes over presidency of First National Bank at death of Ralph Hinman.

Year of 1955

JANUARY—Funeral services for Mrs. Wm. Ortman, 86, pioneer mother.

MARCH—Primghar to have dial phone service.

APRIL—Jonas Stangeland killed on Highway 59.

MAY—Primghar School wins District Track Meet.

JULY—Corrine Gillespie appointed County Auditor to fill vacancy.

AUGUST—W. B. Devine, new Superintendent of Primghar School succeeding L. N. Jensen. James Merry named Outstanding Student at Ames. O'Brien So. Bell under new management, H. C. Grafton and Shirley Omer, owners and operators.

SEPTEMBER—Burdette Brundage buys Waldhelm Market.

OCTOBER—H. H. Schultz elected to Federal Power Bar Ass'n. Ed Halbach of Clinton named SUI Alumni Dad.

NOVEMBER—Raymond Johnson, 88, buried.

DECEMBER—Mrs. Jean Rold new Welfare Director. Roller Rink opened.

Year of 1956

JANUARY—Primghar Theatre closed. Dr. Hugh LaMaster to practice in South Dakota. Donald Cox buried.

FEBRUARY—Sheriff Jake Mulder buried. R. M. Stevens takes over Rooney's Barber Shop.

MARCH—Beckman's TV Shop opens. Dunrith Waund, Jr. to locate in Hawaii. Lange's Cafe sold to George Roseland and Martin Axdahl and wives of Paullina.

APRIL—Will E. Jons buried. Mayor Halbach dies of heart attack. Roy Bennett appointed new Mayor.

MAY—R. S. Nicholson and Clay Edwards buy Willey Elevator.

JUNE—Rain Increase Ass'n. meets in Primghar.

JULY—Cement poured at playground. Krumm Hardware sells to Arnold Ridenour.

AUGUST—Farm dial telephone service in use.

SEPTEMBER—Primghar first receives electric power from Ft. Randall dam. Rev. and Mrs. Mager and family move to Des Moines. Jack Seivert wins new Ford Toots Nelson buys Williams Ta-Station Wagon.

NOVEMBER—New home for Church of Christ built. Daughter

of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Toal killed in South Dakota. Frank Halbach, postmaster, retires.

DECEMBER—George Breyfolge retires after 44 years as rural mail carrier.

Year of 1958

JANUARY—Swimming Pool project defeated in election.

FEBRUARY—George Kaiser buried. Linferd Saupe buys Kaiser Ins. Agency.

MAY—Mrs. Will Kaiser, wife of County Treasurer buried.

JUNE—Addition to school on north side, approved in vote for \$40,000 bond issue. Beryl Hicks receives ministerial degree. Curley Jansen, town's shoemaker buried. Resuscitator bought by Primghar Firemen.

JULY—Watermelon Day, 19th. Sharotn Brandt chosen "Queen of the Furrow."

AUGUST—Case Elshuis reports 122 bushel per acre yield of oats. Dennis Freed, Paullina shows Grand Champion Baby Beef at Fair. Emil Olander, long-time druggist buried.

OCTOBER—Big Fire at County Home—Six fire departments work against flames.

Year of 1959

MARCH—Bean Soup Day enjoyed by many. Dunrith Waund dies. Mr. and Mrs. Leo Reiman hold open house, first home in Primghar with complete electric heat-system. \$10,000 paid on municipal light plant indebtedness. First airplane lands on new airstrip. Gene Anliker, local jeweler, undergoes major surgery. Rev. Donald Weemhoff of the American Refomed Church goes to Redlands, Calif. Kenny Schoening bags 250-lb. bear in Canada.

JUNE—Methodist Church dedicates new addition. New Smith and Grigg Law offices underway. Roger Fjeld ordained at Grace Lutheran. Carl Strandberg, 93, buried. Andy Ohme dies.

JULY—Horse Show well attended. New Laundromat opens. Don Hagen shows Champion pigeon.

AUGUST—Dennis Freed has Champion Baby Beef at fair.

SEPTEMBER—Wm. Klink dies. Beata Reager returns from Hawaii. Langleys honored for 50 years in Order of Eastern Star. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Reager observe 65th anniversary.

OCTOBER—Ruth Petersen buys Satterlee's Apparel. Airport dedicated. Light Plant debt free.

NOVEMBER — First National Bank holds grand opening in new building. Harold Klink buys Saupe Insurance. New Christmas Decorations bought, cost \$1,000.

DECEMBER—Primghar Theatre torn down. Light rates reduced.

Year of 1960

JANUARY— Many take last train ride across Iowa on Milwaukee Road. Passenger service removed January 1, 1960. John Deere Day in Primghar, large crowd present. Bean Soup Day featured by merchants. Frank C. Bordewick and Will F. Kaiser awarded life membership for outstanding service to American Legion.

JUNE—Jose N. Welch, prominent attorney, TV and screen per-

sonality, welcomed home, visits boyhood haunts here, and honored at a luncheon.

JULY—Jack Seivert new owner of Seivert Furniture. Fair Board votes to build new sales pavilion. Expect over 500 entries at County Fair.

OCTOBER— Carl Fritzsche in Africa as Agricultural Overseer of Work of U. S. Government.

DECEMBER—Hospital addition carries by large margin.

Year of 1961

MARCH—Mr. and Mrs. Tom Nagle new administrators of hospital.

APRIL—Primghar participates in nation-wide Civil Defense alert.

MAY—Set Horse Show Date. Over \$1,000 in merchandise to be given away by Chamber of Commerce.

JUNE—Mr. and Mrs. Clay Edwards and Mrs. Glenn Williams return from trip to Canada and Alaska.

JULY—Install new mercury vapor lights on Highway 59. Town Council donates \$500 to summer recreation program. Watermelon Day July 29.

AUGUST—Livestock at O'Brien County Fair grosses nearly \$49,000. Congregational Church Educational Unit Dedicated.

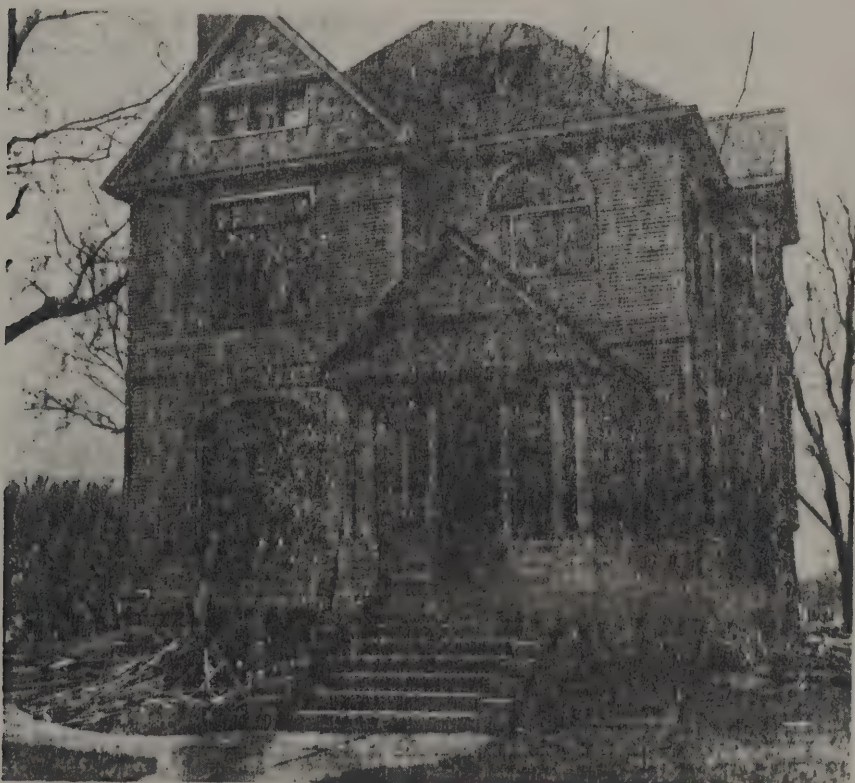
DECEMBER—Church of Christ dedication services held.

JUST PICTURES





Residence of Thomas Byers on 15th Street, built in 1873, it was the first hotel in Primghar.



Old Schee residence in process of being razed after purchase by the Catholic Church.



1910—Third Grade Class. Janitor, George Wright, Teacher, Miss Edith Campbell.



RALPH LANGLEY'S ORCHESTRA. Seated: Ralph Langley, Marie Williams Bossert, Kenneth Rerick, Mavis Bossert Rerick. Standing: Harry Marsh, Claud Chapman, Hilma Thatcher, Ross Chapman, J. B. Sanders.



1911—Cicero Class. Miss Jennings, teacher, in center.



1914—Sixth Grade, Dorothy Stamp (Mrs. Ralph Preston), teacher. 1st row, left to right: Benny Byam, Glenn Patterson, Willie Schierholz, Timmy Anderson, Lawrence Halbach, Eddis Emery, Peter Schroeder, Victor Cooper, Scott Wilson. 2nd row: Dorothy Mast, Caroline Ortman, Gwenethe McElhinney, Irene White, Alice Klink, Coila Norland, Berneice Eddington, Adaline Hinz, Ruth Langley. 3rd row: Grace Anderson, Miss Stamp, Catherine Rogers, Ruth Stewart, Dorothy Ellis, Elizabeth Mathern, Luella Merry.



1912—Fourth Grade in old school building. 1st row, left to right: Lucuis Norland, Irene White, Helen Bauman, Helen Rogers, Jessie Anderson. 2nd row: Johanna Doescher, Ruth Burnett, Jessie Fritzsche, John Dougherty, Carl Peterson, Frances Halbach. 3rd row: Gladys Benson, Bertie Neath, Jim Metcalf. Standing: Carl Chapman, Bea Alberts, Mildred Hastings, Helen Waldhelm, Red Artherholt, Myrne Hendry, Bessie Keene.

THE LAST WORD

We feel it was an honor and a privilege to compile a history of Primghar's seventy-five years from 1888 to 1963.

We cannot say that we did the work alone, for the response to our calls for help was wonderful. Many people gave suggestions, pictures, or bits of information or typed sheets of material for us. To everyone who contributed in any way to this work we say, "Thank you, we are grateful for your help."

We hope that in the years to come the time we have spent will not be considered lost, and that some enjoyment and pleasure will come from these records of

OUR LITTLE TOWN

Caroline Bohan

Gladys C. Zinn

Mickie Van Leeuwen

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